

KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING



January 30, 2025 – 1:00 p.m. ET

CPE Offices, 100 Airport Road, Frankfort, KY 40601 – 2nd Floor Conf Rm AB

Virtual Livestream Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89129396618>

**consent action item*

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- II. Approval of the Minutes**
- III. Nominating Committee – Report and Action Item**
 - A. Election of the 2025 CPE Chair and Vice Chair
- IV. Reports and Updates**
 - A. KDE Commissioner Report
 - B. Student Council Member
 - C. CPE President Report
- V. Strategic Discussion with Murray State University**
- VI. Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee – Report & Action Items**
 - A. Proposed New Academic Programs*
 - 1. Master of Science, Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814) - Murray State University
 - 2. Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (CIP 26.1103) - University of Kentucky
 - 3. Doctor of Philosophy, Translational Bioengineering (CIP 14.0501) - University of Louisville
 - B. Information Updates
 - 1. KCTCS Programs approved between Sept 2024-Jan 2025
 - 2. Annual Report of Academic Programs – Academic Year 2023-24
 - 3. Fall 2024 Final Enrollment Update
 - 4. Update from the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative
- VII. Finance Committee – Report & Action Item**
 - A. Interim Capital Project – Kentucky State University Betty White Building Renovation*
 - B. Tuition Policy and Tuition Setting Timeline
 - C. Update on 2022-2024 and 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool Funding
- VIII. Executive Committee – Report & Action Item**
 - A. Annual Audit Results, year ended June 30, 2024*
 - B. FY25 Agency Budget Update
 - C. Kentucky State University Management Improvement Plan
 - D. 2025 Council Retreat planning
 - E. Committee Appointments

IX. Data Spotlight

- A. Returns on Investments in Higher Education in Kentucky (CBER)
- B. 2023-24 Degrees and Credentials

X. Staff Update

- A. Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund Update

XI. Campus Good News Reports

- A. Eastern Kentucky University
- B. Kentucky State University
- C. Morehead State University
- D. Murray State University
- E. Northern Kentucky University
- F. University of Kentucky
- G. University of Louisville
- H. Western Kentucky University
- I. Kentucky Community & Technical College System
- J. Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities

XII. Closed Session due per KRS. 61.810(1)(f) to discuss individual personnel matters relating to the reappointment of an employee

- A. Potential Action

XIII. Other Business

XIV. Adjournment

Next meetings: April 17, 2025 @ Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights

MEETING MINUTES

Draft for Approval by the Council on January 30, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Work Session and Campus Spotlight
Date: November 21, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY – Centro Building, Hilary’s

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a work session on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred in the Centro Building at Bellarmine University. Vice Chair Elaine Walker and Reverend CB Akins presided.

ATTENDANCE

The following Council members attended the meeting in person: CB Akins, Jacob Brown, Lindsey Case, Jennifer Collins, Meredith Figg, Sean Garber, and Macy Waddle. Council members who attended virtually were Kellie Ellis, Karyn Hoover, and Elaine Walker

Council members who did not attend were Muhammad Babar, Faith Kemper, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, Kevin Weaver, and Commissioner Robbie Fletcher.

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended virtually and served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE’s board liaison, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

WELCOME REMARKS

Vice Chair Walker called the meeting to order and then due to her attending the meeting virtually, turned facilitation of the meeting to Rev. Akins. Rev. Akins then recognized President Thompson (who also attended the meeting virtually) and introduced new board members in attendance – Sean Garber and Macy Waddle.

BRIEFING ON SJR 132 FEASIBILITY STUDY

SJR 132 called on CPE to study the feasibility and impact of transitioning Hazard Community and Technical College into a regional, residential, four-year public university in southeastern Kentucky. It called out specific objectives for this study:

- 1) A potential annual budget for the transition and initial establishment of the university's operation.
- 2) A governance plan for the institution based on the statutes and administrative regulations that currently govern other comprehensive universities as defined in KRS 164.0013.
- 3) How the college's current satellite campuses can be utilized, including but not limited to incorporating them into the new institution or maintaining them within the Kentucky Community and Technical College system.
- 4) Demand for the institution's academic programs and services within the projected service area by analyzing workforce supply/demand data and soliciting input from potential students and area employers.
- 5) The curricular offerings of the institution including any new or discontinued programming and joint programming with other University Center of the Mountains postsecondary institutions to supplement the institution's curriculum offerings.
- 6) How student financial aid would be offered, and the tuition and fee rates that may be charged to provide accessibility for the residents of the region.
- 7) How the state postsecondary education budget and performance-funding structure would need to be adjusted to account for the transformation.
- 8) What extracurricular and interscholastic programs should initially be offered to students, including athletics programs, and the potential costs and revenues the institution may incur from those offerings.
- 9) A proposed implementation timeline for the transition and establishment of the institution that incorporates the study items in sections 1–8.

Shortly after passage, CPE contracted with Ernest and Young to conduct the study. At the work session, the consultants presented their findings, which concentrated on the methodology of the study; current state context; future recommendations, scenarios and financial impacts; and an alternative model.

The results of the study and recommendations will be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2024, for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

BREAK

The Council took at 15-minute break and resumed the work session at 2:30 p.m. ET.

BRIEFING ON SJR 170 FEASIBILITY STUDY

SJR 170 called on CPE to conduct a feasibility study on expanding postbaccalaureate program offerings at comprehensive universities, specifically the feasibility of launching these four new postbaccalaureate programs:

- 1) A doctoral program for professional practice and licensure in veterinary medicine at Murray State University.
- 2) A doctoral program for professional practice and licensure in osteopathic medicine at Eastern Kentucky University.
- 3) Doctoral programs to obtain an R2 "High Research Activity" designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education at Western Kentucky University.
- 4) A Doctor of Philosophy in Integrated Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture at Kentucky State University.

CPE contracted with Deloitte Consulting to conduct the study, which was completed between August and November. The consultants presented on their feasibility assessment methodology and summarized their findings for each of the four proposed programs. In their study, they also reviewed the current academic program approval processes and provided recommendations to address stakeholder concerns and improve the process going forward.

The results of the study and recommendations will be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2024, for referral to the Senate and House Committees on Education and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and Revenue.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT, TOUR AND DINNER

Bellarmino President Susan Donovan led the Council in a campus tour that highlighted the institution's nursing programs and their simulation lab, as well as their efforts to expand student success services. A dinner in the Alumni Legacy room of Centro Hall followed. No business was conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 7:00 p.m. ET.

MEETING MINUTES

Draft for Approval by the Council on January 30, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Business Meeting
Date: November 22, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY – Centro Building, Hilary’s

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Friday, November 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred in the Centro Building at Bellarmine University. Temporary Chair CB Akins presided.

ATTENDANCE

The following Council members attended the meeting in person: CB Akins, Jacob Brown (left at noon), Lindsey Case, Jennifer Collins, Meredith Figg, Sean Garber, and Macy Waddle. Council members who attended virtually were Kellie Ellis, Karyn Hoover, Faith Kemper and Commissioner Robbie Fletcher.

Council members who did not attend were Muhammad Babar, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, Elaine Walker and Kevin Weaver.

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended virtually and served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE’s board liaison, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR, PER COUNCIL BYLAWS

Both CPE Chair Madison Silvert and Vice Chair Elaine Walker were unable to attend the meeting. Per the Council bylaws, in the absence of both the chair and vice chair or in the event the vice chair is unable to perform the duties of the chair, the Council shall appoint a temporary chair.

Mr. Travis Powell, CPE’s General Counsel and Senior Vice President, coordinated the election of the temporary chair.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved that the Council elect Rev. CB Akins to serve as chair of the November 22, 2024, meeting. Ms. Case seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Rev. CB Akins took over the meeting's proceedings. He welcomed attendees and provided his thoughts on the previous day's meetings and campus tour. He also thanked Bellarmine President Susan Donovan for her hospitality in hosting our meetings and invited her to address the Council. Finally, he recognized President Thompson as attending the meeting virtually due to his inability to travel.

OATH OF OFFICE

Notary Public, Heather Faesy, administered the oath of office for new Council members Sean Garber of Prospect and Macy Waddle, student member from the University of Louisville.

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Council approved a resolution for outgoing Council member Chloe Marstiller, who served as the student member during the 2023-24 academic year.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the September 16, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

CPE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments on several items including his recent workforce-focused community visits on aviation and CLIMB-Health, the work CPE is doing to apply for another six-year GEAR UP grant, and the final meeting of the sixth cohort of the Academic Leadership Development Institute.

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) COMMISSIONER REPORT

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher provided his report, which focused on the development of a new accountability system, his support of the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum, and how he's been focusing much of his early efforts on relationship building by visiting with as many school districts as he is able.

UPDATE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

Ms. Waddle introduced herself to the Council and reported that the Board of Student Body Presidents has been focusing a lot of their efforts and attention on student mental health. It will remain a top issue for the year.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Karyn Hoover (who attended virtually) requested Meredith Figg present the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, which met on November 15, 2024. She announced that Committee members:

- Received a comprehensive report on the preliminary enrollment numbers for fall 2024.
- Received a report on a new initiative in the healthcare workforce area that focuses on the growing demand for nuclear medicine technology programs.
- Received a sneak preview of the new website, Futuriti, which is designed to be a one-stop digital shop for students, parents, teachers, and counselors to find information about career paths, educational roadmaps, financial assistance and employment opportunities.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval two proposed new academic programs:
 - University of Kentucky – Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science (CIP Code 51.0201)
 - University of Louisville – Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CIP Code 51.2010)
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed changes to the Statewide Strategic Agenda.

MOTION: The ASI Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed. Meredith Figg abstained.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Jacob Brown presented the report and recommendations made by the Finance Committee, which met on November 15, 2024. Committee members:

- Received an update on the contingently approved interim capital project request from Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College to raze and replace the campus pedestrian bridge at the Whitesburg campus.
- Received an update on the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding, who completed their work at the end of October and will be submitting its recommendations by December 1, 2024.
- Received a comprehensive summary of the trends over time in room and board costs, books and supplies, and other costs that comprise component elements of the total cost of attendance at Kentucky public universities.
- Learned about the timeline and plan of action for the 2025-26 tuition setting cycle.

- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval revisions to the 2022-24 and 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool Guidelines.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval two interim capital projects:
 - Morehead State University – Raze existing Normal Hall and replace it with a new dormitory; 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool dollars - \$10,200,000.
 - Maysville Community and Technical College Montgomery Campus – renovate space for new welding lap; Federal and agency restricted funds - \$1,220,000. Approved contingent upon its approval by the KCTCS board of regents at their December 6 meeting.

MOTION: The Finance Committee’s recommendation of approval of the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT

Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director of Access, Engagement and Belonging, provided a summary of the CEO’s meeting held on October 28, 2024. The committee discussed the status of the current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan and potential changes being considered.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM

Chair Akins presented the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee, which met the morning of November 22, 2024. Committee members:

- Received a report from staff on the study required by section 76 of Senate Bill 91 that charged the Council to provide detail for all programs administered by CPE in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, the statutes authorizing these programs, and the associated expenditures and fund sources.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the 2025 meeting dates of the Executive Committee.

Chair Akins made the following committee appointments, on behalf of Chair Silvert:

- 2025 Nominating Committee – Kevin Weaver, who will serve as chair, LaDonna Rogers, and Jennifer Collins.
- Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee – Sean Garber and Macy Waddle
- Finance Committee – Macy Waddle

STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA DISCUSSION – AIKCU

Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, reminded the Council about the key performance indicators and status of the target-setting process for 2027.

President Mason Dyer provided the Council its annual update on the institutions of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU). The update focused on AIKCU's enrollment data, collaborative programs designed to help its members control costs, and the key strategies of the AIKCU schools for each of the strategic priorities of the statewide agenda. He also provided updates on the key performance indicators for enrollment, degree attainment, graduation rate, and retention rate.

LUNCH BREAK

The Council took a 40-minute lunch break and reconvened at 12:35 p.m. ET.

SJR 179 REPORT FROM KCTCS

President Ryan Quarles presented the findings of Senate Joint Resolution 179, which was passed during the 2024 Legislative Session and directed the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), in collaboration with CPE, to analyze the findings of the two reports completed last year (SJR 98 and Huron Group studies) and present specific action steps on several topics including academic programing, a statewide workforce plan and governance reform. Joining him at the table were Dr. Philip Neal, KCTCS's acting executive vice president and provost, and Dr. Jay McCaslin, provost at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College.

KCTCS conducted the study and presented to the Council their methodology, how the work teams were composed, and decision criteria. They also presented the 11 recommendations that will be submitted to the legislature, pending their board's approval at its December 6, 2024, meeting. The report is to be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by December 10, 2024.

No action was required by the Council; however, President Thompson did state he was not in agreement with several of their recommendations, including the one regarding dual credit.

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials. Chair Akins provided highlights from Eastern Kentucky University, University of Louisville, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

CLOSED SESSION PER KRS 61.810(1)(f)

Chair Akins requested a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved the Council go into closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(f) to discuss individual personnel matters relating to the reemployment of an employee. Ms. Case seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The Council remained in closed session for 30 minutes and returned at 2:40 p.m. ET.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved that the Council go back into open session. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Akins confirmed that no action took place during the closed session and that only matters identified in the motion were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 2:42 p.m. ET.

TITLE: Nominating Committee Report and Election of the 2024 CPE Chair and Vice Chair

DESCRIPTION: The Committee Chair will present the Nominating Committee’s slate of officers for consideration by the Council

STAFF CONTACT: Travis Powell, Sr. Vice President and Chief of Staff

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Nominating Committee met on January 27, 2025, to discuss and recommend members to serve as chair and vice chair of the CPE through January 2026.

The chair shall serve as the convener of all Council meetings and as the central voice of the Council. In the absence of the chair, or in the event the chair is unable to perform, the vice chair shall perform the duties of the chair. In the event the chair resigns and the vice chair assumes the duties of the chair, the Council may select a vice chair to complete the unexpired term of the vice chair. The chair and vice chair are limited to three consecutive one-year terms.

After the election of the chair and vice chair, the officers will begin their duties immediately.



**EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Student's Voice Since 1954

Office of the Student Body President

2025 Kentucky Rally for Higher Education

Tentative Agenda

Date: March 27, 2025

Time: 9:00am - 10:00am

Location: Kentucky Capitol Building Rotunda (Frankfort, KY)

Schools arrive: (8:15am - 9:00am)

Introduction: (9:00am - 9:05am)

(confirmed) William Lampert, *KBSBP Vice Chair & EKU Student Body President* [>5 mins]

Speakers: (9:05am - 9:55am)

(confirmed) Senator Steve West, *Chair of Senate Education Committee* [5 mins]

(confirmed) Senator Reggie Thomas, *Senate Minority Caucus Chair and Senate Education Committee Member* [5 mins]

(confirmed) Representative J.T. Payne, *Former Chair of KBSBP and Student Body President of Murray State University; House Postsecondary Education Committee Member* [5 mins]

(confirmed) Representative James Tipton, *Chair of House Postsecondary Education Committee* [10 mins]

(confirmed) Allie Rose Phillips, *KBSBP Chair and UofL Student Body President* [5 mins]

(confirmed) President Aaron Thompson, *Council on Postsecondary Education* [10 mins]

(invited) Governor Andy Beshear, *Commonwealth of Kentucky* [10 mins]

Picture Opportunity: (9:55am - 10:00am)

Individual School Meetings w/ State Legislators: (10:00am - Departure)

William Lampert
Student Body President
william.lampert@eku.edu
606-585-1865

116 Powell Student Center
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, Kentucky
www.sga.eku.edu

TITLE: CPE President Report

DESCRIPTION: President Thompson will highlight specific initiatives during his report to the Council. This written report serves as his official report for January 30, 2025.

STAFF CONTACT: Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President

Completion Rate Gains: Later in the meeting, you'll hear about Kentucky's recent gains in degrees and credentials awarded as well as enrollment. I'd like to highlight another statistic that exemplifies the magnitude of the state's recent progress in postsecondary performance; from 2023 to 2024, Kentucky had the second highest gain in the nation in its six-year completion rate, rising from 59.4% to 62.2%. This metric captures how many undergraduates complete a postsecondary credential within six years, regardless of whether they graduated from the institution where they initially enrolled. Utah ranked first with a 2.9-point gain; Kentucky was just a tenth of a point behind. With this gain, Kentucky surpassed the national completion rate of 61.1%.

Futuriti: Next week (February 4), I will be participating in the launch of Futuriti, a new one-stop shop for college and career planning for Kentucky students, including adults. The press conference will be held at 10 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda if you are interested in attending. This initiative grew out of a recommendation from the Commonwealth Education Continuum, and CPE, along with KYSTATS, has led the charge to develop the site. I'd like to congratulate Amanda Ellis and her staff for all the work they've done to bring this site to fruition.

SkillBridge Partnership: I'm pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Defense has approved CPE as a designated SkillBridge employer. This prestigious program connects recently separated military service members with career training, internships and real-world work experience to facilitate their seamless transition into civilian employment. At CPE, these individuals will have the opportunity to apply their expertise in areas such as policy development, workforce alignment, data analysis and educational programming. The 12–24-week program provides practical experience and professional growth, empowering veterans to launch successful careers in Kentucky's higher education and workforce development sectors. CPE hopes to bring an intern on board by June of this year.

Student Success Summit: CPE's fourteenth annual student success summit will be held February 10-11 at the University of Kentucky's Gatton Student Center. The theme of the summit is fostering leadership, innovation and collaboration, and nearly 400 participants have registered for this event. We have a distinguished group of speakers this year, featuring Dr. Tristan

Denley, Deputy Commission for Academic Affairs and Innovation at the Louisiana Board of Regents, as well as Dr. Tia McNair, a partner at the national higher education consulting firm SOVA.

Staff Recognitions: CPE staff members continue to gain state and national recognition for their good work.

- **Amanda Ellis**, Vice President for Student Access and Success, was a featured speaker at the Education Commission of the States' (ECS) recent commissioner's meeting in Denver. She spoke about Kentucky's focus on building the P-20 pipeline and the value of postsecondary education.
- **Chris Ledford**, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, represented CPE and was a featured speaker at a national convening sponsored by SHEEO to help states support and advise citizens challenged by outstanding student loan debt. Chris was joined by three individuals from KHEAA and the head of financial aid at KCTCS.
- **Trinity Walsh**, Coordinator of Early Postsecondary Opportunities, and **Chris Ledford** were selected to present at the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships' (NACEP) dual credit summit in Texas on February 16-18, 2025. This premier conference is tailored for higher education institutions, school district personnel and state/national entities focused on dual credit and college readiness.
- **Mary Jackson**, Senior Associate for Workforce and Economic Development, provided the keynote address at the recent KACE (Kentucky Association of Colleges and Employers) conference. She highlighted a career services framework model developed by CPE to improve workforce pathways and career advising.
- **Travis Powell**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, testified before the Regulations Review Committee about changes to the performance funding regulation. Despite some opposition, the committee ultimately approved the changes as submitted.

New CPE Staff Members: I'm pleased to welcome several new employees to CPE.

- **Maddie White** is serving as a senior associate in the data and advanced analytics unit. Maddie comes to us from KDE, where she worked as a systems consultant for the Kentucky School Report Card. Prior to that, she worked at KCTCS, first as a coordinator of institutional research and communication and then as a financial aid manager.
- **Tracy Teater** is serving as an Associate Director for Adult Attainment. Tracy has been on the staff of the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) for the last nine years, most recently serving as the national director of community impact/senior director, where she led initiatives across multiple states. Prior to that, Tracy was the special project

coordinator and director for the Jefferson County Adult Education Program, which provides services to over 7,000 adult students annually. While she'll work in KYSCC, she'll be partnering with staff across the agency to help advance Kentucky's efforts to engage and support adult learners.

- **Ashley O'Neil** is serving as an associate director with KYSSC in the area of gateway course success. Ashley comes to us from the University of Louisville, where she worked as the director of planning and assessment with the Office of Institutional Equity.

Legislative Update: The legislative session has begun, and many bills filed have been filed that could impact higher education. Regan Satterwhite, CPE's Director of Legislative Relations, will provide a brief update.



2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

Murray State University

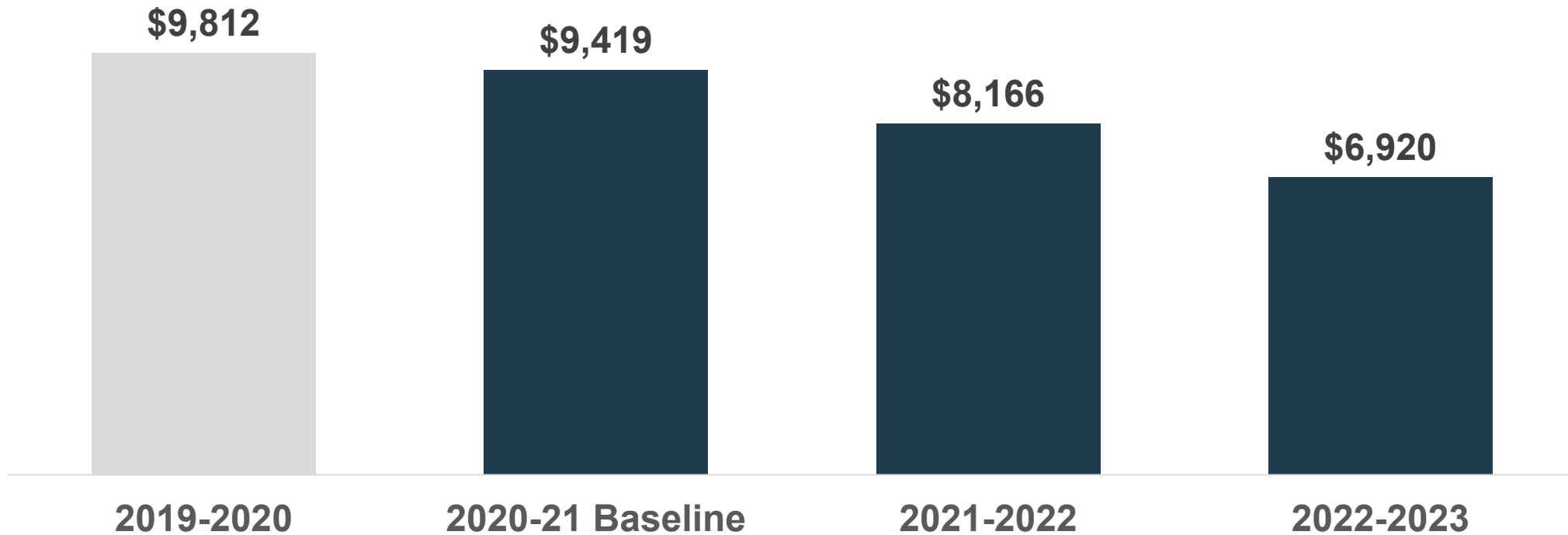
January 30, 2025



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR -- AFFORDABILITY

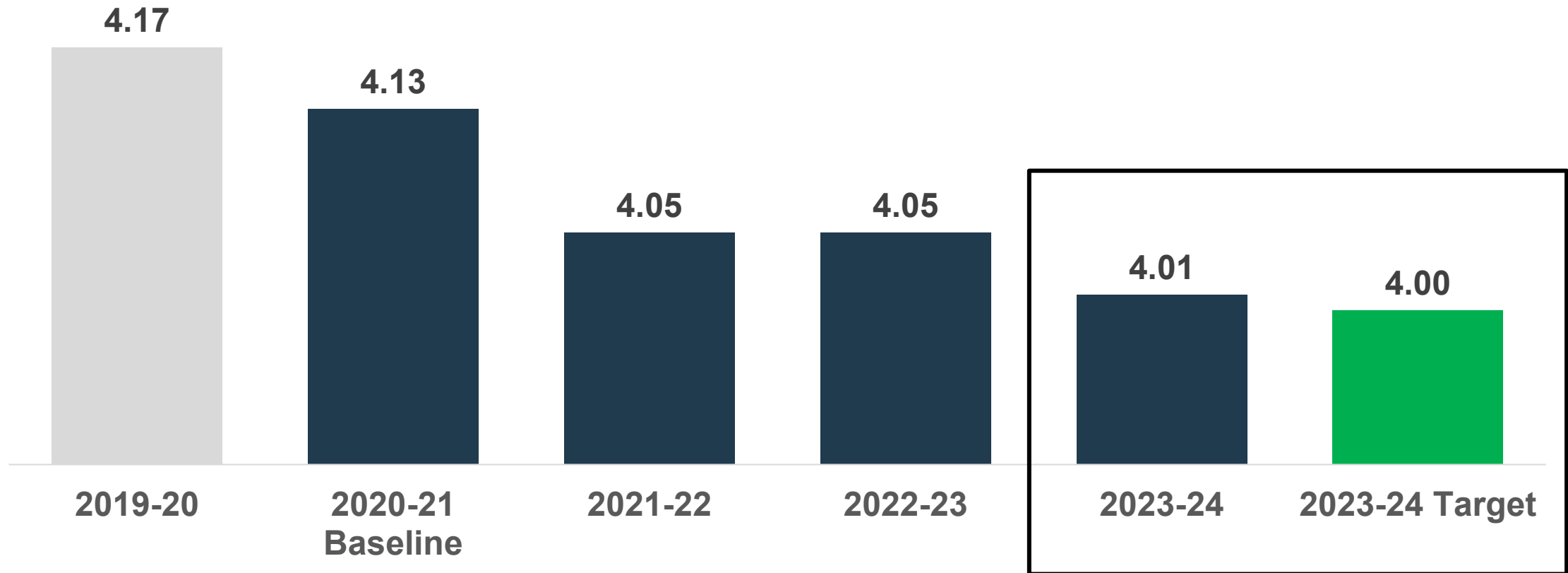
Unmet Need: Average amount students must pay out-of-pocket after all financial aid and expected family contributions.

Unmet need **decreased 15%** from FY22 to FY23 and **30%** from 2019 to lowest it has been in 7 years.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR -- AFFORDABILITY

Time to Degree: Average number of academic years students are enrolled prior to undergraduate degree completion



MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON AFFORDABILITY

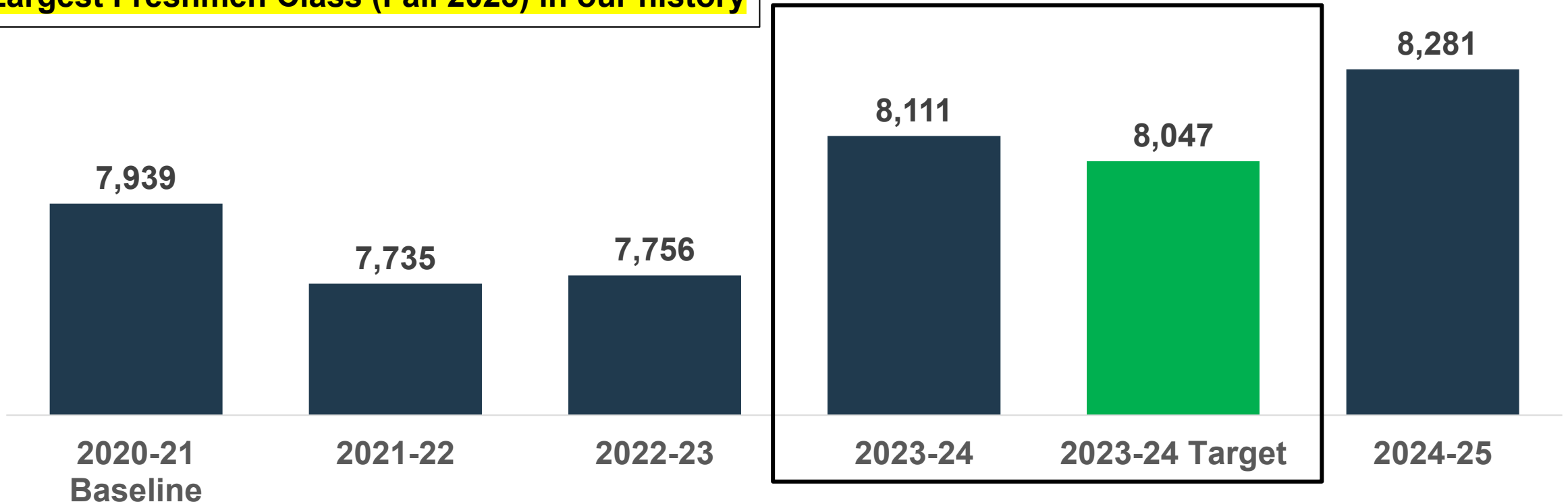


- Unmet need **decreased 15%** since last year and **30%** from 2019 to lowest it has been in 7 years. (**~\$1,250 per student**)
- Fall 2022 increase in Pell Awards (6.6%) and KY CAP Awards (83%)
- ***Murray State Promise*** (KY FTF and FTT, Pell eligible)
 - A record, \$136M, in Financial Aid and Scholarships in FY 2023-24
- ***Racers Finish*** (Adult Degree Completion Program and Scholarship for returning students)
- **Time to Degree** – lowest among public, comprehensives
- Third year of streamlined net tuition pricing

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TRANSITIONS

Undergraduate Enrollment: Total unduplicated number of students who enroll in an undergraduate program offered by one of Kentucky's public colleges or universities in an academic year, either full-time or part-time.

44% of students are First Generation.
Largest Freshmen Class (Fall 2023) in our history



MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TRANSITIONS



- Increase of 6.7% over Fall 2022 – already met CPE target
 - Highest FTF class in history of the University (1,659)
 - Highest total enrollment since 2016 for Fall 2024
 - **Road Scholars** Program – faculty/staff to recruit high schools
 - New **Presidential Grant** program
 - Residential Colleges – Living and Learning Communities
 - New Learning Commons/Residential Hall - \$38M
 - Housing Occupancy – 100%
 - Purchased 268 bed apt. complex – Station 74
- Fall 2024
- 60% of FTF enter with college credit (Avg – 19 hours)
 - 49 states (Maine), 115 KY counties, 52 countries
 - 8% increase in Transfers and largest since 2020
 - Dual Credit - 1,078 students

MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TRANSITIONS

30+
**CONSECUTIVE YEARS
TOP TIER UNIVERSITY**
- U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

#1

**BEST VALUE SCHOOL
SOUTH REGION**
- U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT



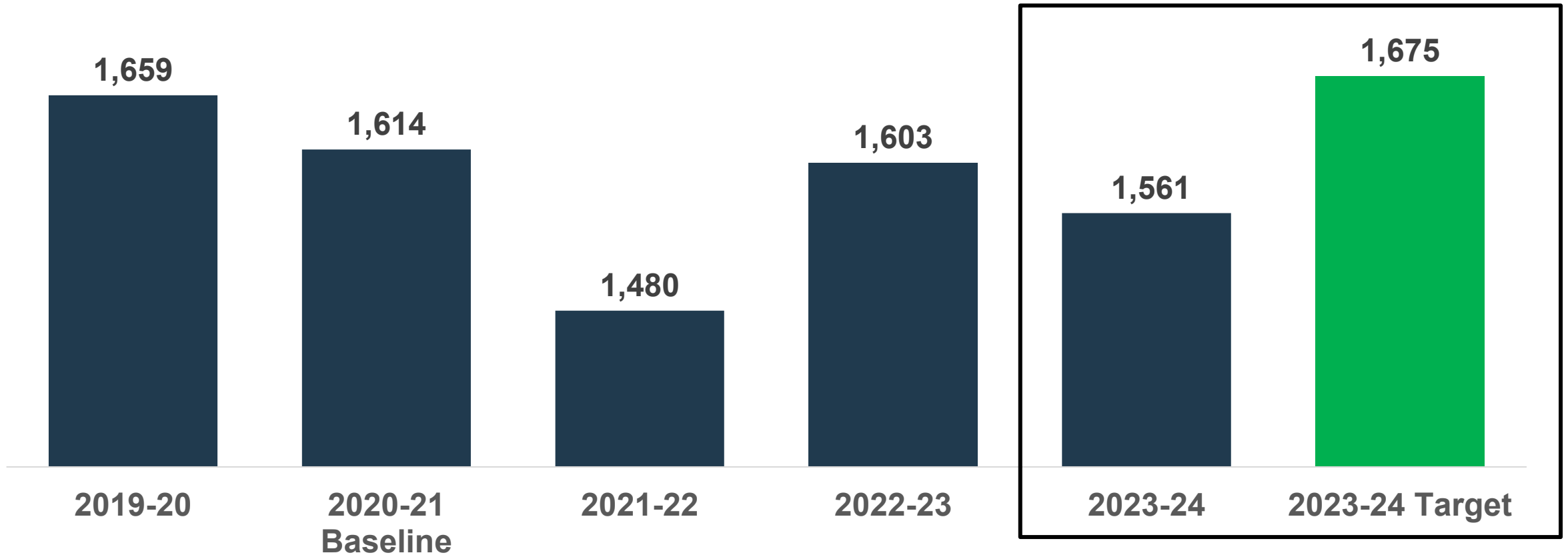
**BEST BANG
FOR THE BUCK**
- WASHINGTON MONTHLY 2024

- **Centennial Campaign - \$100M**
 - 50% - Access/Affordability
 - Scholarships and Need-Based Aid – **\$96.5M**
 - **Largest gift in our history just received**
- Preliminary Data of national academic quality rankings for graduate ROI – Increases from 27% and 30% for 2024.
 - US News & World Report (2024) –
 - 1st in Best Value Schools (South)
 - 7th in Best Regional Universities for Veterans
 - 8th in Top Public Schools (South)
 - 20th in Best Regional Universities (South)
 - *Best Bang for the Buck* – Washington Monthly

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

Undergraduate Degrees & Credentials: Number of undergraduate degrees awarded in an academic year.

13,508 degrees awarded since 2018!



MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON SUCCESS

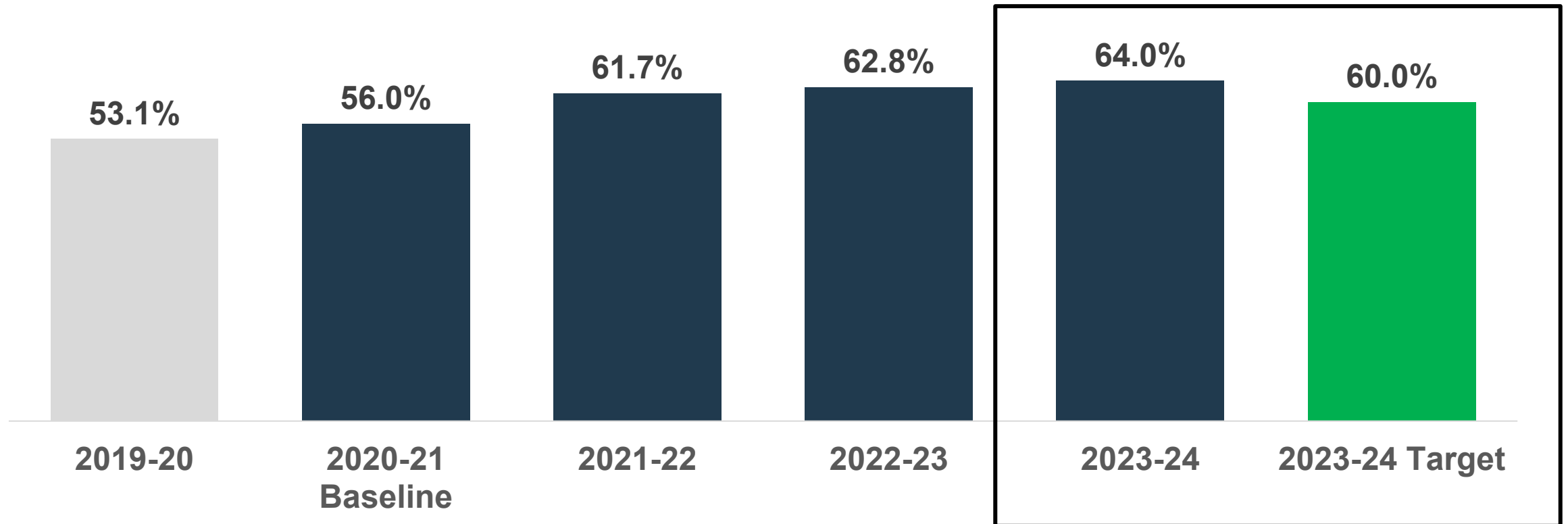


- STEM+H Degrees – **Increased** by 17% since Fall 2022
- **Highest percentage** of STEM+H Degrees to Total Bachelor Degrees in the Commonwealth (41.4%)
- **Second highest increase (5%)** of LI Degrees among all public comprehensives
- **Increase of 5.6%** of total degrees awarded since FY22 (**10%** increase since FY19)

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

Graduation Rate: Percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students who receive an undergraduate degree within 6 years

Highest among comprehensives as of 2022-23
Highest for Murray State on record!



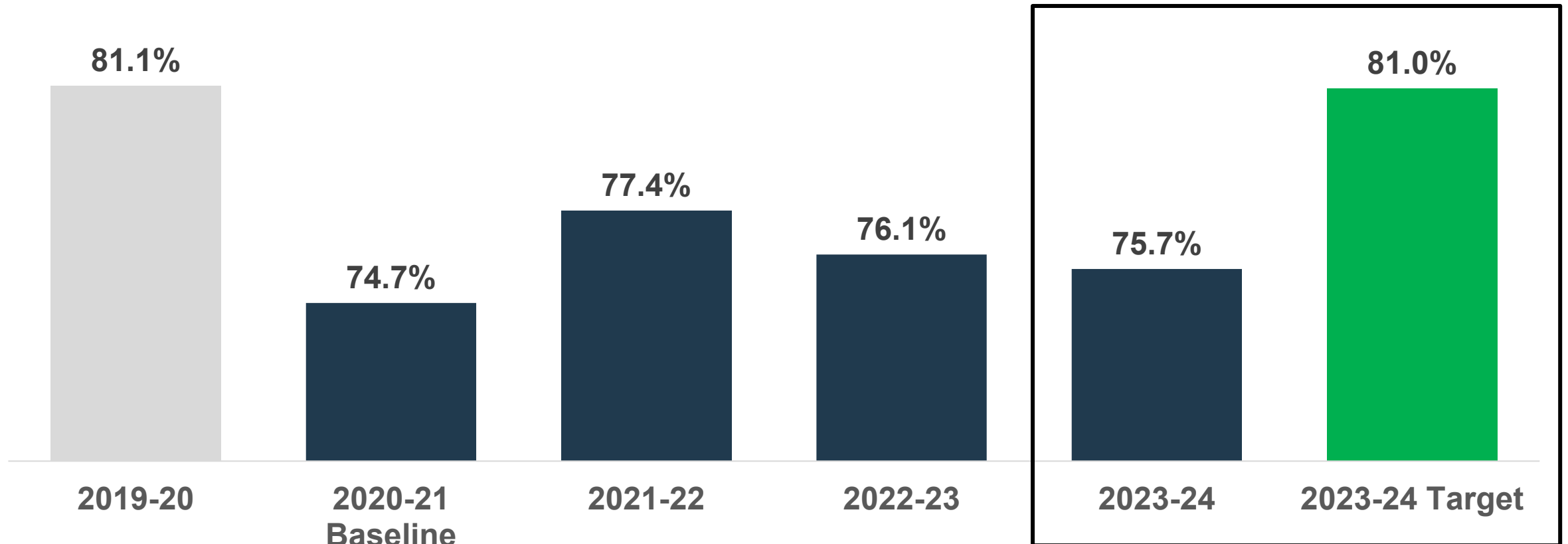
MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON SUCCESS



- **Increase 6-year graduation rates through enhanced academic advising, mentoring, coaching and enhanced retention initiatives**
- **Graduation Rate – highest in our records (64% in FY24)**
- **Program Accreditations Reaffirmed– Speech Language Pathology and three others to be announced formally soon**
- **Ensure at least one program in each college/school receives **QA Commons** certification**
 - **11 programs with at least one in each college/school – top in the country! (Including our Program of Distinction – Cybersecurity and Network Management – record 30% growth)**

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

Retention Rate: Percentage of first-time, degree- or credential-seeking students enrolled in the summer or fall of their first year who are still enrolled at the same institution the following fall.



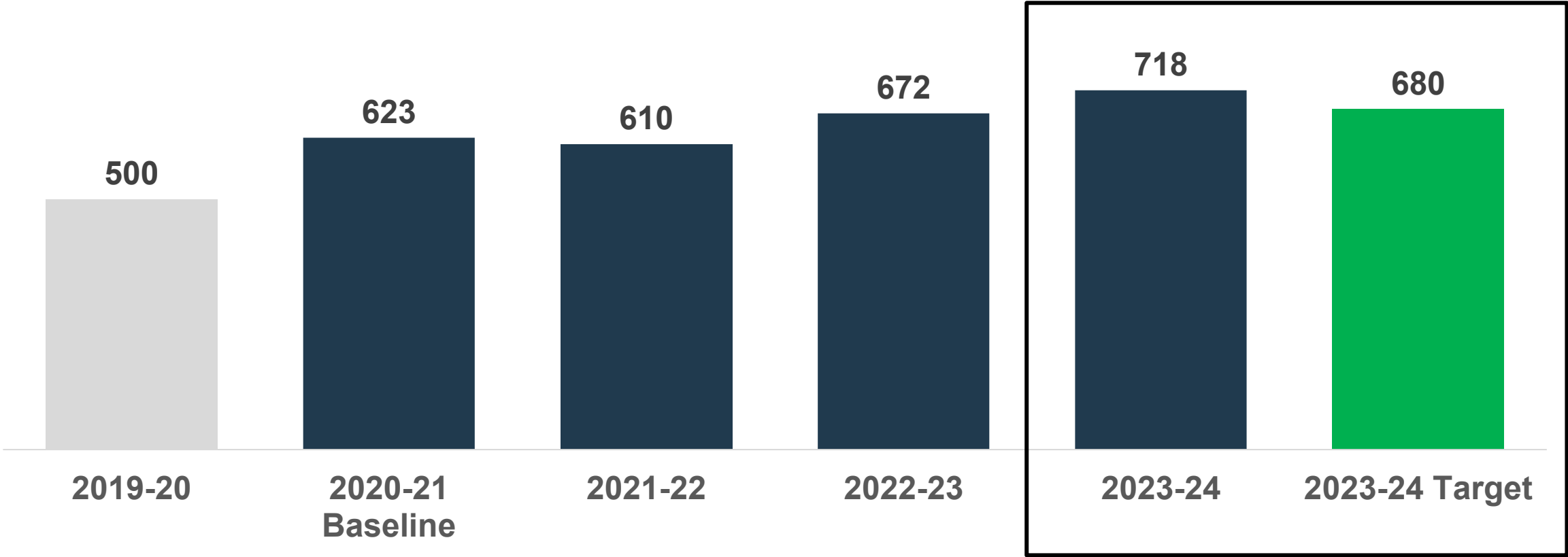
MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON SUCCESS



- **Professional Advisors** – Pilot program in Management, Marketing, Business – increase of completion of earned hours by 7 over the general population
- **60-hour progression** – slightly up and **90-hour progression** increased by 10% (Performance Funding Metric)
- **TimelyCare** initiative in Fall 2024 – 24/7/365 mental health assistance for students and connected to QEP (MSU Matter – Racers Care) – Recruitment and Retention initiative
- **High School Programs**
 - Hosted Governor's Scholars Program (350 students)
 - Commonwealth Honors Academy (100 students)
 - TRIO Summer Camps
 - Dual Credit initiatives (In almost all KY counties)

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TALENT

Graduate and Professional Degrees: Total number of graduate/professional degrees awarded in an academic year.



MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TALENT



- Graduate Degrees – **Increase** of 6.8% over 2022-23
- Master of Economic Development/Agribusiness - recognized by the KY Department of Agriculture
- Enhanced Nurse Anesthesia program and record Occupational Therapy Class
- Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine – Feasibility Study
 - New Veterinary Sciences building - \$60M appropriation
- Academic program review
 - 11 programs with low enrollments and degrees
 - 32 minors analyzed and half sunset in Fall 2024
 - 250 courses with fewer than 9 students (9% of inventory) under review

MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE



- **Bucks for Brains – \$1.5M will be matched by the University**
- **52% of students graduate with no known debt (Common Dataset) – best among the public, comprehensives**
 - *Of those graduating with known debt, they graduate owing less than other public, comprehensives.*
- **54% increase in Performance Funding** related to enhanced number of degrees, credit hours and enrollment - #1
- **Department of Energy Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Site Grant** with regional collaboration (**\$1.5M**)
- **Regional Campuses** – serve as Centers for Excellence
 - Dual credit initiative with new Christian County Schools

MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE

KCTCS Agreements



- NEW Electromechanical Engineering Technology with Madisonville Community College (2+2)
- Spring 2024 updated pathway with MSU Cybersecurity and Network Management
- **2022 Master Agreement between Murray State and KCTCS**
 - Collaborative partnership with well-defined and integrated pathways for Assoc. Degree at KCTCS and Bachelor Degree at Murray State
 - Dual Admission program
 - KCTCS pathway students – access to Murray State advisors for seamless transfer; MSU ID granted
 - Completion of AA or AS before transfer means all general education will be completed at MSU
 - MSU Transfer Admissions Counselor available for KCTCS students
 - Joint work to increase persistence of our students for Associate or Bachelor degrees at respective institutions

MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE



- **SACSCOC**
 - Second, 10-year reaffirmation with no recommendations
- **School of Veterinary Medicine**
 - SJR 170
 - \$60M building
- **School of Nursing and Health Professions Building.** - \$45.5M
- **UofL and Murray State University:**
 - Cybersecurity/Cyber Center/Network initiatives
 - Medical School Education in West Kentucky



MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE



**School of Nursing & Health Professions Bldg.
Rendering (Under Construction)**



**Veterinary Sciences Bldg. Rendering
(In Design)**

MSU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE



**Learning Commons/Residence Hall Rendering
(Nearing Bid Phase)**



**Cyber Center Lab Rendering
(In Design)**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT
TO HIGHER EDUCATION!**



TITLE: Proposed New Academic Programs for Review & Recommendation

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee recommends the Council approve the proposed new Academic Programs from Murray State University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville.

STAFF CONTACTS: Melissa Bell, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Excellence
Sheila Brothers, MPA, Senior Director of Academic Excellence

COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee reviewed and endorsed for final approval the proposed new academic programs from Murray State University, the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky at its January 27, 2025, meeting.

PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

Council staff have reviewed the proposed programs and recommends approval by the board. The university-submitted program summary for each has been included in your materials for review.

Murray State University

- Master of Science, Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814)

University of Kentucky

- Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (CIP 26.1103)

University of Louisville

- Doctor of Philosophy, Translational Bioengineering (CIP 14.0501)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: Murray State University
Program Name: Applied Behavior Analysis
Degree Destination: Master of Science

CIP Code: 42.2814

Credit Hours: 34

Implementation Date: 8/1/2025

Program Description

The program in Applied Behavior Analysis will equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to enhance the development and abilities of individuals across the lifespan. The program will focus on addressing the behavioral needs of individuals, particularly those with developmental disabilities and autism. Through a combination of coursework, supervised practicum experiences, and internships, students will work with individuals experiencing mental health issues, developmental disabilities, and aging.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Implement behavior analytic interventions for a wide range of clients.
- Conduct behavioral and functional assessments, evaluate interventions, and apply behavior analysis.
- Collaborate effectively with caregivers, educators, and other professionals to develop behavior intervention plans.
- Conduct themselves ethically and professionally within the field of Applied Behavior Analysis.
- Pursue board certification and state licensure.

The proposed M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis program at Murray State University offers several distinctive qualities that set it apart from other programs in the field. One of the key features is its blended learning format, which combines synchronous and asynchronous coursework. This flexible structure allows students to engage in both academic study and in-person practicum experiences, making it an ideal option for both traditional students and working professionals seeking to balance their educational and professional commitments. A standout feature of the program is the on-campus practicum opportunities provided through the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD). Students will have the chance to work directly with children and youth with developmental disorders under the supervision of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs).

Connection to Other Programs

Murray State University currently offers an undergraduate psychology program with a track in Applied Behavior Analysis, which will serve as a direct feeder into the proposed program.

Outside of central Kentucky, there is a gap in Applied Behavioral Analysis programs. Similar programs exist at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville, but neither program is particularly accessible to students who desire to remain in the western Kentucky region for a more localized, hands-on experience in the field. In addition, enrollment in both similar programs is limited by faculty-student ratios and program size.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 8
- Year 2 – 23
- Year 3 – 30
- Year 4 – 30
- Year 5 – 30

Employment Demand

Driven by the rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities, as well as legislative mandates for applied behavior analysis therapy coverage in healthcare plans, the demand for board-certified behavior analysts is growing exponentially, both nationally and in Kentucky. House Bill 159, enacted in Kentucky in 2010 and amended by House Bill 218 in 2018, requires state-regulated health plans to cover ABA therapy, which has dramatically expanded access to services and the demand for Licensed Behavior Analysts.

Between 2022 and 2023, nationwide demand increased by 14%, following a consistent upward trend over the past decade. Demand for applied behavior analysis practitioners also extends beyond autism services, with behavior analysis gaining traction in fields such as organizational behavior management, gerontology, and substance abuse treatment, which further broadens career opportunities for graduates.

In Kentucky, several institutions, including Murray State University, currently offer Verified Course Sequences (VCS) for BCBA certification, following the guidelines set by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). However, new VCS applications will no longer be accepted after January 1, 2025, and the system will be phased out by December 31, 2025. This transition emphasizes the shift toward graduate-level programs like Murray State's proposed M.S. in ABA, which will play a crucial role in meeting future academic and certification demands.

Budget

Some Applied Behavior Analysis coursework is already offered through Murray's existing EdS School Psychology program. Therefore, only one additional faculty line is needed for the proposed program and the University intends to shift funding for an open faculty line to the proposed program. Costs will also be offset by tuition.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 1,179,299
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 450,000

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: University of Kentucky
Program Name: Biomedical Informatics and Data Science
Degree Destination: Doctor of Philosophy

CIP Code: 26.1103

Credit Hours: 41

Implementation Date: 8/26/2025

Program Description

The Biomedical Informatics and Data Science program will prepare students to computationally analyze large-scale datasets to promote better health for residents of Kentucky and beyond. Biomedical Informatics and Data Science are designed to take disease research and clinical care to new levels using advanced computational approaches, including natural language processing, bioinformatics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. Instead of administering medicine, graduates will push the limits of medicine using these advanced techniques.

Biomedical informatics involves applying computational techniques and information technologies to analyze, interpret, and manage biomedical data. Data science focuses on extracting knowledge and insights from structured and unstructured data through statistical analysis, machine learning, and data visualization techniques. The fields of biomedical informatics and data science are revolutionizing healthcare by improving patient outcomes, enhancing clinical decision-making, and advancing medical research.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Compare common computational approaches to interpret large biomedical or healthcare datasets.
- Identify relevant patterns in large biomedical or healthcare datasets.
- Use computational analyses and data-driven techniques to support health-related research in Kentucky.
- Foster collaboration between data scientists, clinicians, and researchers across various disciplines.

A unique aspect of the program is a focus on data from Kentucky. The intent is for at least half of the students to use data generated in part or in whole from Kentucky as the basis of their research.

Connection to Other Programs

The University of Louisville offers a similar program, but it is a Bioinformatics specialization in an Interdisciplinary Studies program, not a stand-alone program.

The University of Kentucky is home to the only Biomedical Informatics division or department in Kentucky. Faculty from that department, along with colleagues from the departments of Biology, Biostatistics, Biomedical Engineering, Cancer Biostatistics, Computer Science, Data Science, and Statistics will collaborate to offer the program.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 4
- Year 2 – 8
- Year 3 – 12
- Year 4 – 16
- Year 5 – 16

Employment Demand

Statewide, job openings are projected to grow about 23% over the next 10 years. The demand for professionals in biomedical informatics and data science has experienced exceptional growth, due to advancements in technology, the global adoption of electronic health records, and the shift toward personalized medicine. Healthcare providers, government agencies, and pharmaceutical companies are some of the entities that have been able to improve patient outcomes and optimize healthcare delivery by leveraging the skills of biomedical informatics and data science professionals.

Budget

The university's Department of Internal Medicine has committed funding for the first three years of the program. The College of Medicine has further offered to support tuition for one to two graduate students per year for faculty without extramural funding or on startup funds. No additional faculty are needed.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 5,000,000
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 345,590

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: University of Louisville
Program Name: Translational Bioengineering
Degree Destination: Doctor of Philosophy

CIP Code: 14.0501

Credit Hours: 47

Implementation Date: 8/18/2025

Program Description

The Translational Bioengineering program will provide multidisciplinary training in translational bioengineering, preparing students to lead research and development in academia, industry, and governmental agencies, as well advance bioengineering technologies through start-up companies or within established biomedical companies. Bioengineers collaborate with physicians, biologists, biochemists, chemists, clinicians, dentists, physiologists, therapists, and virologists to design, develop, and manufacture instruments, devices, materials, prophylactics, software, and therapeutics.

Students will have the option to customize their program of study by selecting one of four Specializations (Bioelectronics and Biomedical Devices, Bioimaging and Biocomputational Modeling, Biomechanics and Rehabilitation, and Molecular and Tissue Engineering). Students will further specify one of three tracks (Traditional Bioengineering Research, Clinical Translational Research, and Entrepreneurship of Bioengineering Technologies).

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Design and conduct research leading to an intellectual contribution to the field.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of their concentration area and associated scientific literature.
- Understand the clinical relevance and ethical implications of their research.
- Critically analyze, evaluate, and interpret research methods and findings.
- Develop new procedures to solve clinical problems.

UofL's program will be unique to Kentucky, and there are very few programs offering clinical translational and entrepreneurship-focused bioengineering doctoral degrees in the United States.

Connection to Other Programs

The University of Louisville currently offers a Translational Bioengineering specialization within the PhD Interdisciplinary Studies. The strong bioengineering community at the University of Louisville is built upon established collaborations between faculty in bioengineering, medicine, dentistry, and business, along with faculty in other departments within the Speed School of

Engineering. While the University of Kentucky offers a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, that program generally expects applicants to have earned a master's degree. In contrast, the proposed program at UofL will accept students who are completing a baccalaureate program in a related field, such as engineering or medical physics.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 9
- Year 2 – 13
- Year 3 – 16
- Year 4 – 19
- Year 5 – 21

Employment Demand

In addition to the gratification of working to meet the needs of society and improve quality of life, graduates of the program can look forward to attractive compensation (2023 median pay of \$100,730) and increasing numbers of job postings. Employment opportunities for bioengineers are predicted to grow at a faster-than-average pace through 2032. National job trends predict 5% growth nationally, 12.6% growth within the state, and 6.2% growth in the Louisville area.

Budget

No new faculty are needed to provide the proposed program. Enrollment is projected to increase due to the elevation to a standalone degree, which will further increase the net revenue margins for the program. The program projects further increase in extramural funding based upon the potential for increased research productivity with more doctoral students in the bioengineering program.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 571,747
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 327,964

TITLE: KCTCS Programs approved between Sept 2024-Jan 2025

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received an update on the three AAS program proposals from KCTCS institutions approved between September 2024 and January 2025 in accordance with the program approval process. No action is necessary from the Council.

STAFF CONTACT: Sheila Brothers, MPA, Senior Director of Academic Excellence

COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their January 27, 2025, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

APPROVED PROGRAMS AT KCTCS

Council staff have reviewed and approved the following programs. No further action is needed.

Maysville Community and Technical College

- AAS, Civil Engineering Technology (CIP 15.0201) – The program will offer students the training necessary to establish careers in fields such as materials testing, residential and highway surveying, highway construction management, construction documentation, civil and survey mapping, construction site design, and waste-water management. In addition to a long-standing partnership with a local, globally recognized, land surveying software development company, multiple regional companies and local government agencies will serve on the program's advisory board and will meet regularly to provide curriculum feedback to ensure the program remains aligned with evolving industry needs and trends.
- AAS, Electrical Technology (CIP 46.0302) - The college currently offers a related diploma program and several embedded certificates. The AAS program will provide students with a more advanced and comprehensive credential, preparing them to work in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. Students will develop both general education skills and the technical skills to apply the current National Electrical Code standards while working with current, voltage, and circuits. Graduates will be prepared to install and wire motor control devices, variable frequency drives, and various types of

rotating machinery. This program will include a track in Automated Industrial Controls Technician.

Ashland Community and Technical College

- AAS, Electrical Technology (CIP 46.0302) – Similar to the program at Maysville, Ashland also currently offers a related diploma program and several embedded certificates. The AAS program will provide students with a more advanced and comprehensive credential, preparing them to work in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. Students will develop both general education skills and the technical skills to apply the current National Electrical Code standards while working with current, voltage, and circuits. Graduates will be prepared to install and wire motor control devices, variable frequency drives, and various types of rotating machinery. In contrast to the program at Maysville, Ashland’s program will include an Industrial Technician track.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature.

PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS FOR KCTCS INSTITUTIONS

Associate degree programs of a vocational-technical-occupational nature (i.e. AAS) undergo the following process for approval:

- KCTCS posts a proposal to the program approval system. Institutions and Council staff have 30 days to respond.
- If no issues are identified, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item to the Council.
- If issues are identified, the institution addresses those through the program approval system, and the review period is extended. Once the issues are resolved, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item at the next Council meeting.

TITLE: Annual Report of Academic Programs - Academic Year 2023-24

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received an update on the new, closed, and reviewed academic programs during the 2023-24 academic year.

STAFF CONTACTS: Melissa Bell, Ph.D., Vice President, Academic Excellence
Sheila Brothers, MPA, Senior Director of Academic Excellence

COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their January 27, 2025, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions. Slides covered during the meeting have been included for review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Council is the approving body for academic programs at Kentucky's public institutions. KRS 164.020(15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degrees at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. This statutory duty is operationalized through the Council's New Academic Program Approval Policy, which was last updated in September 2020.

The Council also has the authority to review programs after they are implemented. Under KRS 164.020 (16), the Council has the authority to eliminate or modify existing programs using the criteria of consistency with institutional mission, alignment with the statewide strategy agenda, elimination of unnecessary duplication, and the creation of collaborative programs. This statutory duty is operationalized through two Council policies – the Statewide Academic Program Review Policy, which was last revised in June 2021, and the Statewide Academic Review for KCTCS, which was approved in January 2023.

NEW PROGRAM APPROVALS IN 2023-24

A total of 232 new academic programs were approved during the 2023-2024 academic year. Of these, four were diplomas, 170 were undergraduate certificates, 32 were postbaccalaureate certificates, and four were post-master's certificates, all of which require only staff review.

CPE staff approved seven associate degrees at KCTCS institutions:

- Hazard Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Health Science Technology
- Henderson Community College - General/Occupational Technical Studies
- Maysville Community and Technical College – Emergency Medical Services – Paramedic
- Somerset Community College – Associate of Applied Science in Health Science Technology
- Owensboro Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Professional Studio Artist – Bluegrass and Traditional Music
- West Kentucky Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Maintenance Technology, and Associate of Applied Science in Computer Engineering Technology

The Council approved nine bachelor's degrees, five master's degrees, and one specialist degree:

- Kentucky State University - Bachelor of Science in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity, and Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Murray State University - Bachelor of Science in Animal Equine Science, Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics, Master of Science in Economic Analytics, and Education Specialist in School Psychology
- Northern Kentucky University - Bachelor of Arts in Special Education, Master of Accounting in STEM Accountancy, and Master of Business Administration in STEM MBA
- University of Louisville - Bachelor of Science in Applied Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology, and Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
- Western Kentucky University - Bachelor of Science in Data Science

REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS IN 2023-24

Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July 2024. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions, and plans for the upcoming year.

Overview of Institutional Program Review Processes

Eastern Kentucky University

- At EKU, each academic college created a committee to evaluate and provide recommendations for each program. The program chairs began the review cycle before developing a college review committee that provide recommendations. Then, the Provost, the Associate Provost for Academic Programs, the Vice President of Student Success, and the Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness & Research and Financial Aid reviewed the reports and recommendations.

Kentucky State University

- Kentucky State University academic stakeholders participated in a series of workshops to review the programs identified as "fix to sunset or fix to sustain" during the 2022-2023 program viability study. All KSU's academic programs were reviewed using program economics and market data.

Morehead State University

- Morehead State University's program review process began with members of the Deans Council members reviewing the program review model that was adopted in 2021-22. The college deans met and discussed the data, set criteria, and established a timeline. Each dean was given relevant data from the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis. The deans then disseminated the data to the program faculty for review. The program faculty reviewed the data and provided comments regarding each of the following metrics: enrollment, degree completions, program productivity and efficiency, and assessment of outcomes.

Murray State University

- Murray State University's 2023-24 program review included an evaluation of a program's three-year average headcount, three-year average number of degrees awarded, three-year average of first-to-second year retention, and a three-year average of undergraduate credit hours taught per department. (Evaluation of graduate programs included eight-year averages.) Scores were given to individual programs based on the institution's analysis. Results were evaluated in consultation with program directors, department chairs, and deans.

Northern Kentucky University

- NKU's annual program review process consisted of regular meetings with deans and others overseeing the programs undergoing a review. These meetings aimed to clarify the process, data needs, and timelines and address questions. The college deans then distributed the program review templates to the programs due for review. Regular follow-ups were sent to the deans to request progress updates and provide guidance or help address questions as programs are being reviewed. Subsequent meetings were scheduled at the request of deans or the academic department. Once programs addressed the template's data, the program review report was sent to the deans for review and approval before final submission to the Office of the Provost.

University of Kentucky

- UK's academic program review process was conducted at the department level. Each academic unit was encouraged to facilitate a collaborative self-study process that involved faculty, staff, and other constituents. Following the self-study, an external review committee was developed by each academic dean. These committees were charged by the dean to review and summarize the self-study and then to make at least five recommendations for improvements to each academic unit. Finally, the department had a conversation with the dean to create an implementation plan to guide the department's continuous improvement activities.

University of Louisville

- UofL's review process began with unit-level Program Review orientation meetings and a deadline for submitting reports. Next, the Academic Program Review Committee reviewed all reports to identify areas of commendation, needs, and/or areas for improvement in alignment with university mission, goals, and initiatives. After each committee meeting, the Program Review Coordinator sent a revision request to the reviewed academic programs that summarized the committee's concerns and questions. After a program submitted its revised report, the revised report was forwarded for additional review by the Academic Program Review Committee. Committee members then provided the Provost with a recommendation to fix, sunset, sustain, or grow a program.

Western Kentucky University

- Western Kentucky University used two processes to review academic programs – the Program Sustainability Check-up and Academic Program Review. The Program Sustainability Check-up quickly and efficiently identified programs that needed to improve their long-term viability. The Academic Program Review process evaluated educational program quality and provided an opportunity to reflect upon program content, curricular delivery, and research.

Results of Institutional Program Review Processes

During the 2023-24 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 294 academic programs and provided recommendations:

- 72 programs were recommended to grow.
- 136 programs were recommended to sustain.
- 48 programs were recommended to be improved.
- 29 programs were recommended to close.

Of the 29 programs that were set to close, 13 were master's programs from Morehead State University. Morehead State focused on master's program during their program review, which resulted in the consolidation of 11 Master of Arts in Education programs into one program.

Other programs set to close included:

- Morehead State University
 - Master of Arts in Art (Ed, Graphic, Studio) – the program had low enrollments.
 - Education Specialist in Curriculum and Instruction – the content could be provided through similar, existing programs.

- Murray State University
 - Each of these programs were due to close due to low student and/or market demand, although the programs could opt to create an action plan to improve enrollment.
 - Associate of Science in Career and Technical Education
 - Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies & Languages/Chinese
 - Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies & Language/French
 - Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies & Language/German

- Northern Kentucky University
 - Bachelor of Science in Library Informatics - based on changing instructional demands and the library sciences profession, NKU opted to close the major, but sustain a minor in the field.
 - Master of Science in Computer information technology – the program had low enrollment.

- University of Kentucky
 - Each of these programs were due to close due to low enrollment.
 - Graduate Certificate in Informatics
 - Graduate Certificate in School Technology Leadership
 - Graduate Certificate in Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology
 - Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education
 - Graduate Certificate in College, Career and Civic Life
 - Graduate Certificate in Liberal Studies
 - Master of Arts in Urban Environmental Design – the program had low enrollment, but some content would be shifted to a graduate certificate.
 - Master of Science in Plant Pathology – content would be offered through a specialty in the Master of Science in Plant and Soil Sciences.
 - PhD in Plant Pathology – content would be offered through a specialty in the PhD Plant and Soil Sciences.

- Western Kentucky University
 - Master of Arts in Teaching in Middle Grades Education for Initial Certification – the program had low enrollment, but content would be offered through other programs.

2023-24 Academic Program Approval & Review

Sheila Brothers
Senior Director, Academic Excellence
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education



Academic Program Approval

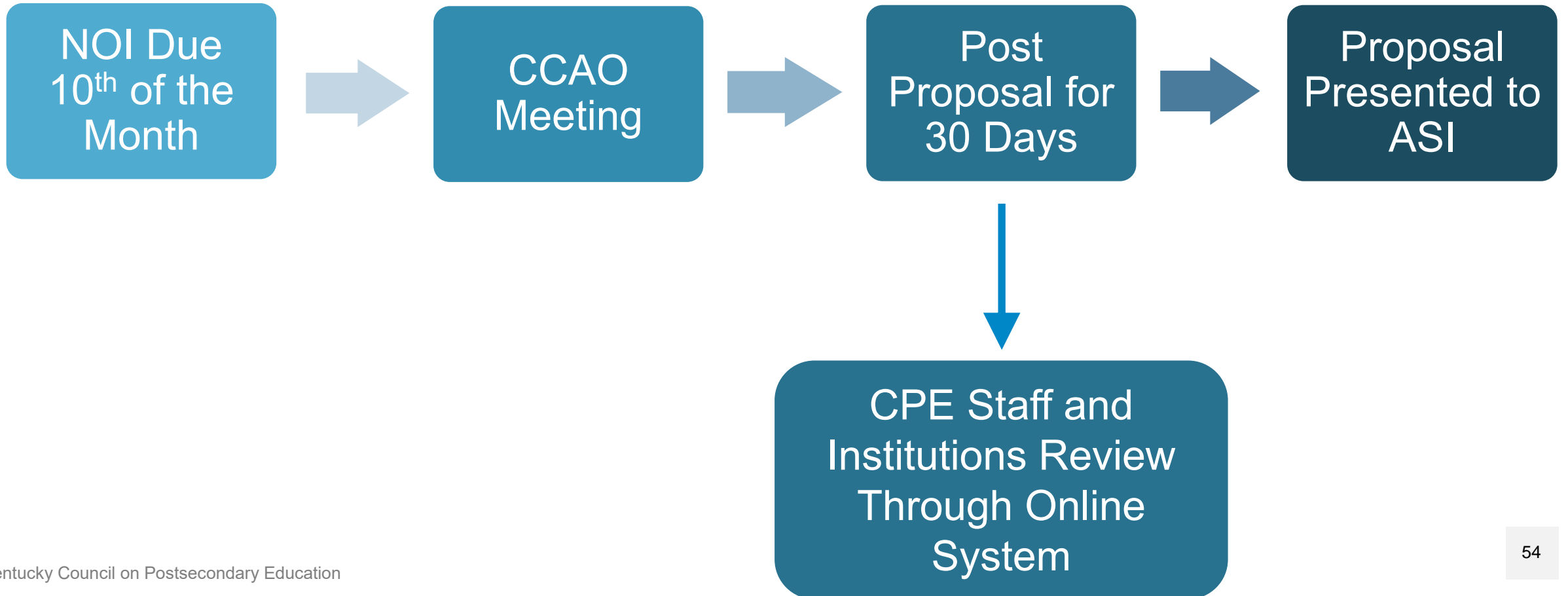
Purpose:

Focus on academic quality, the needs of students and Kentucky's economy, as well as efficient use of state resources.

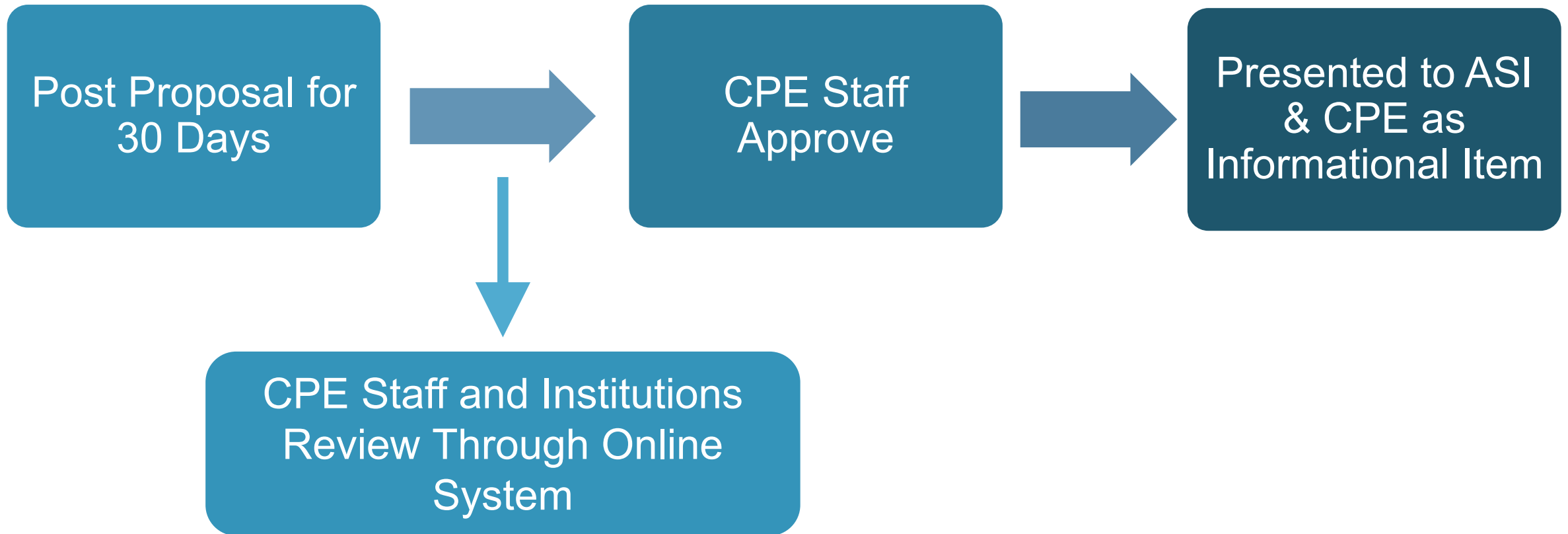
Deadline:

Institutions submit proposals on a rolling basis.

Universities – Academic Program Approval Process

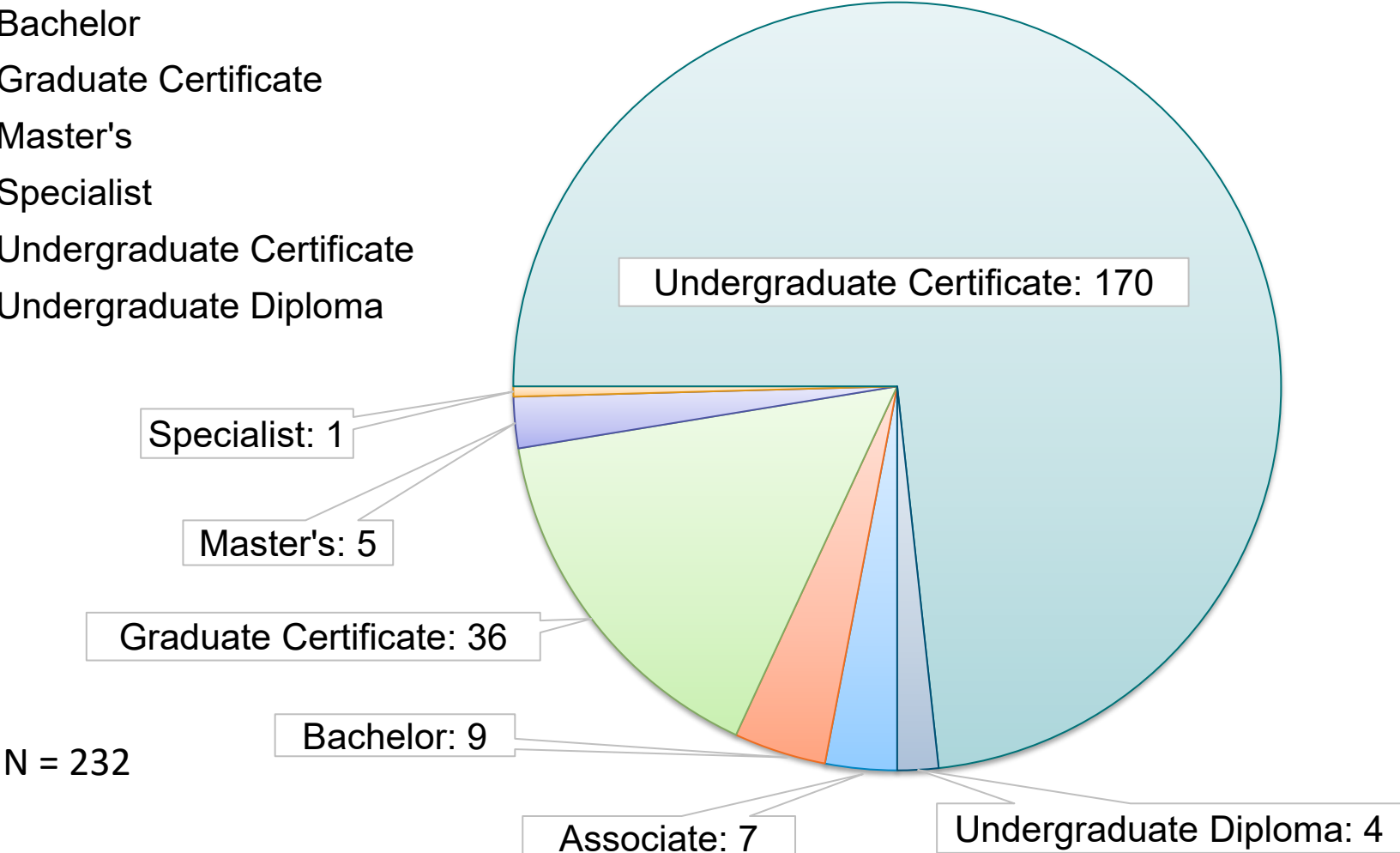


KCTCS – Academic Program Approval Process



Approved New Academic Programs AY 2023-2024

- Associate
- Bachelor
- Graduate Certificate
- Master's
- Specialist
- Undergraduate Certificate
- Undergraduate Diploma



CPE Priority Area CIPs	
Education (13.XXXX)	6
Advanced Manufacturing (15.0613)	3
Health Professions & Related Areas (51.XXXX)	23

Approved Degree Programs by Institution

	Diploma 30-60 cr hrs	Associate less than 9 semester cr hrs	Undergraduate Certificate 9-29 semester cr hrs	Undergraduate Certificate 30-60 cr hrs	Undergraduate Certificate	Bachelor	Post-Bacc Certificate	Master's	Specialist	Post-Master's Certificate
KCTCS	4	7	13	95	12					
EKU				4						
KSU				6		3				
MoSU										
MuSU				9		1	8	2	1	
NKU				4		1		2		
UK				11			13			
UofL				4		3	6	1		4
WKU			1	11		1	5			

Snapshot of New Academic Programs & Closed Programs

Academic Year 2023-2024

CPE Priority Area CIPs	New	Closed
13.XXXX – Education	6	24
Associate	0	3
Undergraduate Certificate	4	4
Bachelor	1	5
Graduate Certificate	1	5
Master's	0	7
15.0613 – Manufacturing Technology/Technician	3	1
Undergraduate Certificate	2	1
Bachelor	1	0
51.XXXX – Health Professions & Related Programs	22	43
Undergraduate Diploma	1	8
Associate	3	5
Undergraduate Certificate	11	18
Bachelor	0	1
Graduate Certificate	7	7
Master's	0	2

Total New Academic Programs: 233
Total Closed Academic Programs: 305

Degree Designation	New	Closed
Undergraduate Diploma	4	29
Associate	8	21
Undergraduate Certificate	107	108
Bachelor	9	17
Graduate Certificate	36	23
Master's	5	24
Specialist	1	0

Academic Program Review

Authority:

KRS 164.020(16) grants CPE the authority to conduct statewide program reviews.

Purpose:

Ensure the continued efficiency and effectiveness of existing programs.

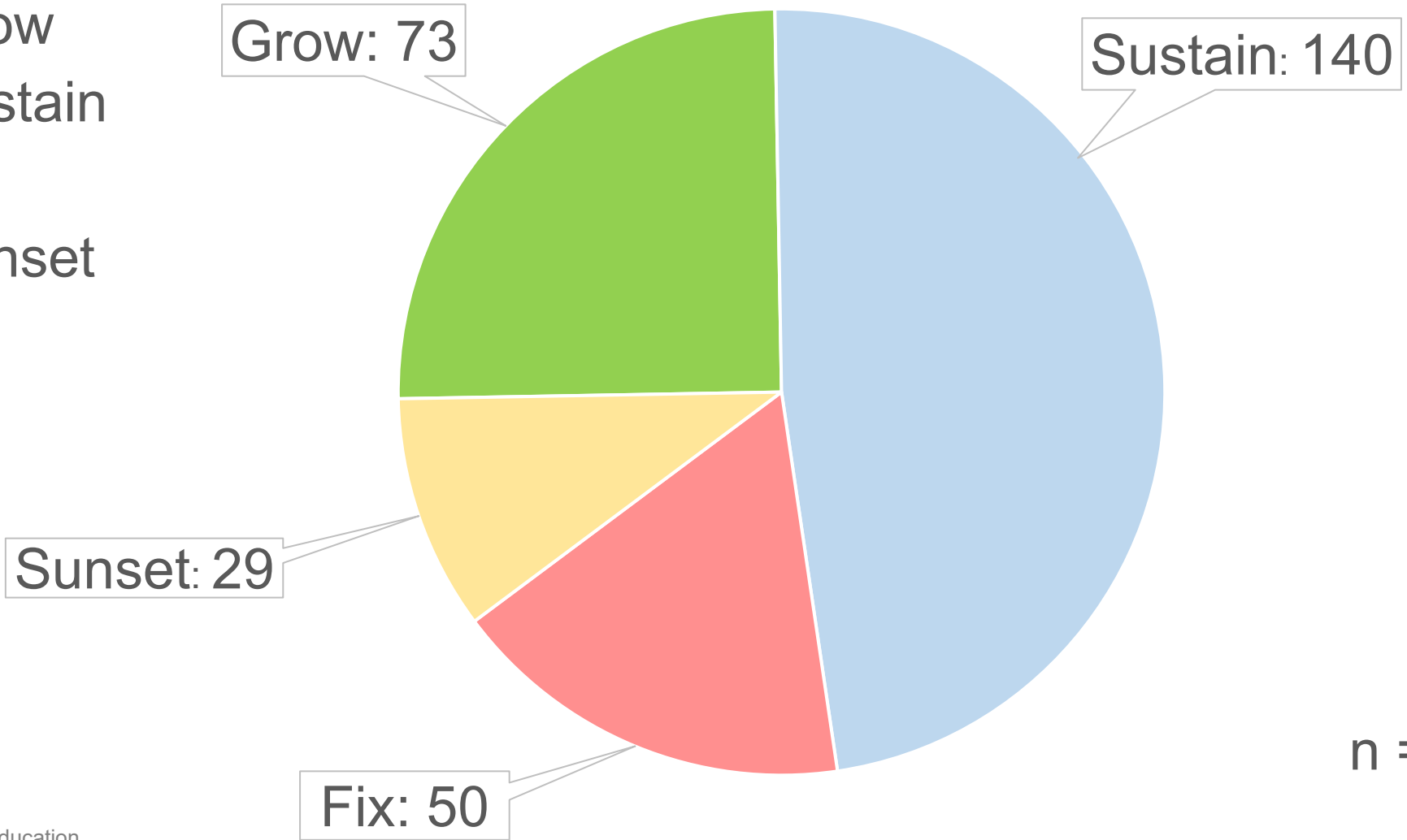
Deadline:

Universities and KCTCS submit their annual institutional reports to CPE by July 15th.

Universities - Academic Program Review AY 2023-2024

Snapshot of Programmatic Decisions

- Grow
- Sustain
- Fix
- Sunset



Universities - Academic Program Review AY 2023-2024

Snapshot of Programmatic Decisions

	Fix	Grow	Sunset	Sustain	Grand Total
EKU	21			10	31
KSU	2	1			3
MoSU	1	13	13	14	41
MuSU		2	4	22	28
NKU	2	8	2	6	18
UK	11	49	9	45	114
UofL	4			13	17
WKU	9		1	30	42
Grand Total	50	73	29	140	294

Academic Program Review – Unnecessary Duplication

CPE staff analyze data across universities to determine if any programs meet **all** the following criteria:

- Multiple programs in the same CIP code;
- Low and declining enrollment;
- Low new student demand; and
- Low market demand.

University programs meeting **all** the criteria must submit program improvement plans.

No program met these criteria in 2023-24.

KCTCS - Academic Program Review AY 2023-24

KCTCS offers 22 individual healthcare and healthcare-related programs through its 16 colleges, with a total of 146 healthcare and healthcare-related programs.

- 120 programs identified to grow or sustain

Improvement plans generally focused on:

- Increased outreach to potential students (high schools, job fairs, etc.)
- Identifying additional clinical sites
- Improved data collection & goal setting (enrollment, completions, etc.)
- Improved collaboration and communication with regional employers

Questions?

Stay Connected



Twitter: **CPENews and CPEPres**



Data Center: **cpe.ky.gov/data**



Newsletter: **cpe.ky.gov/news/subscribe**

TITLE: Fall 2024 Final Enrollment Update

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received an update on the final enrollment numbers for Kentucky’s public and private institutions.

STAFF CONTACTS: Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer
Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics
Annalise Hale, Intern for Data and Advanced Analytics

COMMITTEE’S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their January 27, 2025, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions. Slides covered during the meeting have been included for review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Overall, since Fall 2023, enrollment has grown 5% across public and private institutions, inclusive of strong growth among dual credit, first-time, underrepresented, adult, and first-time adult students. On the whole, Kentucky has equaled or surpassed pre-pandemic enrollment levels. These trends generally hold across sectors.

Increases in early postsecondary experiences like dual credit indicate a strong likelihood of future postsecondary enrollment growth, which eventually leads to increased degree production.

Growth in enrollment among continuing and first-time adults is also a positive indicator. There is a sizable market for postsecondary degrees and credentials among Kentucky adults with no college experience. Sustaining the current enrollment patterns will be critical to reaching Kentucky’s 60x30 goal.



Fall 2024 Final Enrollment Update

Travis Muncie
Annalise Hale
Chris Ledford



Key Takeaways

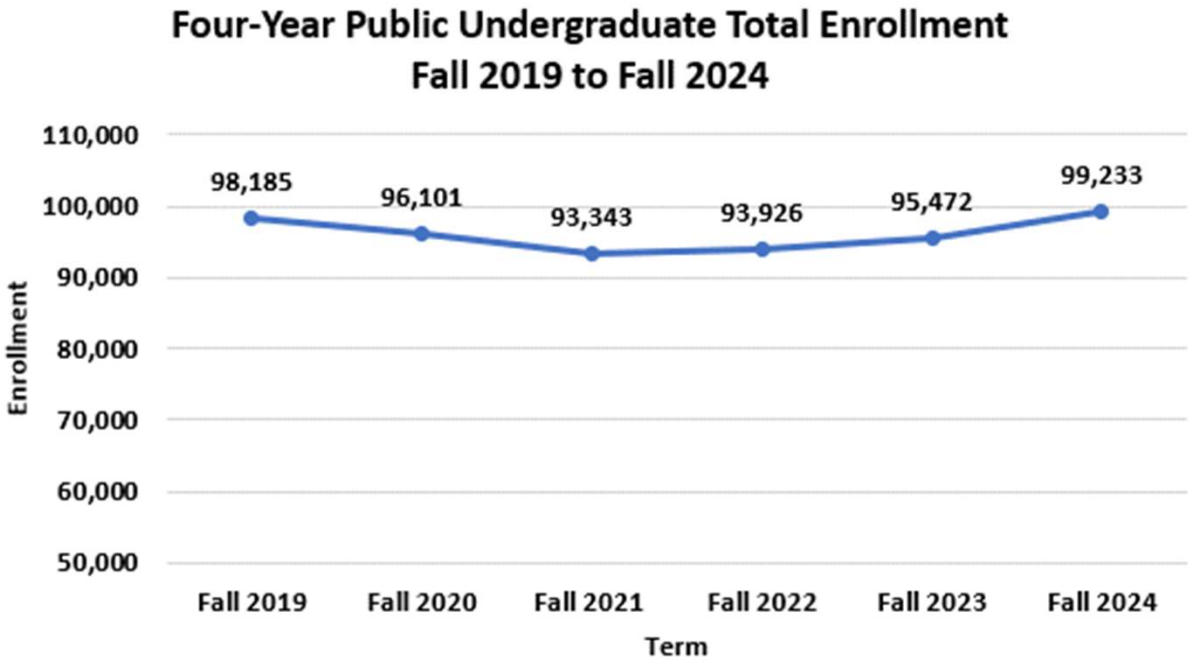
Kentucky Undergraduate Enrollment at a Glance		
Group	1 Year Change	5 Year Change
Total	5.0%	4.7%
Dual Credit	5.4%	44.3%
First-Time	3.8%	2.5%
URM	10.5%	28.6%
Low Income (Public Only)	-3.2%	-16.7%
Adult	10.8%	-6.9%
First-Time Adult	29.4%	15.9%

- Impressive enrollment growth among early postsecondary and first-time students should be promising indicators of future enrollment and credential growth.
- There is a sizable market for postsecondary education among Kentucky adults. It is great to see currently enrolled adults continuing their education, and many adults seeking education for the first-time. Sustaining these patterns, along with positive trends among traditional students, will be critical to Kentucky reaching its 60x30 goal.

4YR Public Institution Undergraduate Enrollment Fall 2019 to Fall 2024



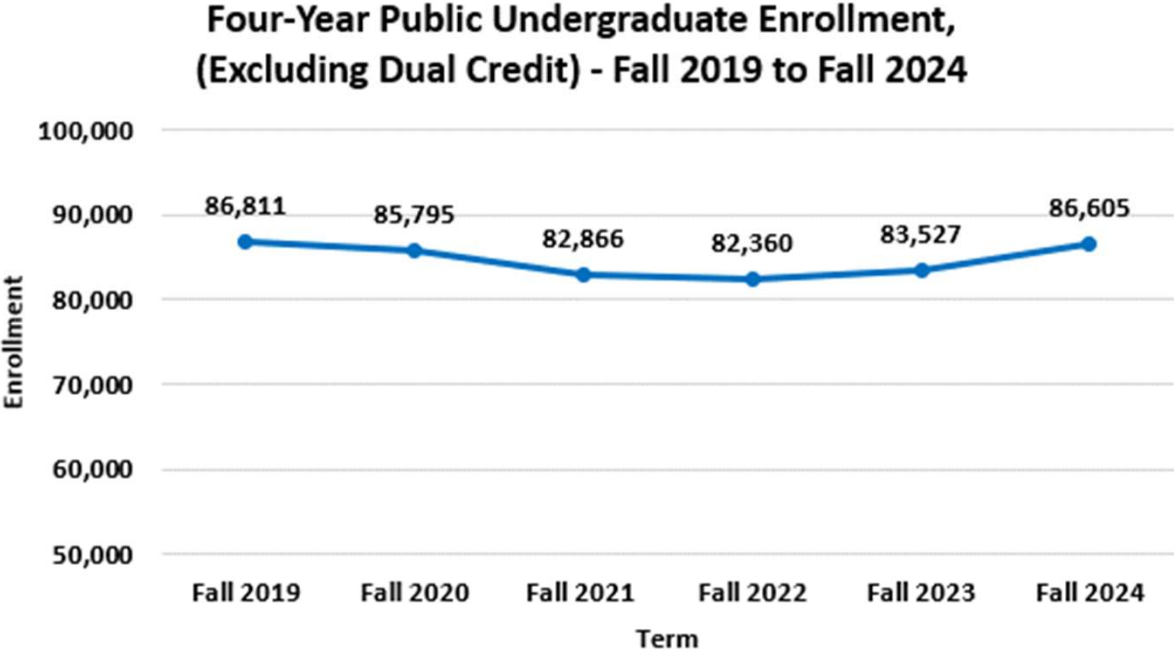
4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment - Total



After seeing a dip in enrollment during the pandemic in Fall 2021, total undergraduate enrollment has recovered and surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

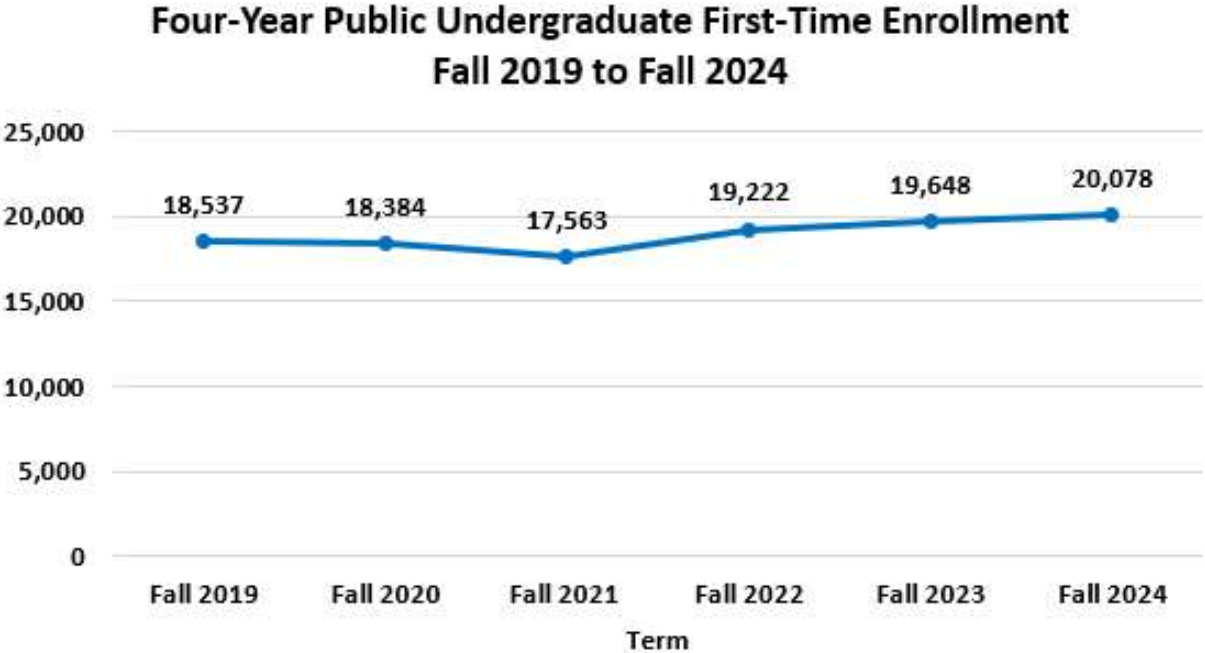
Undergraduate enrollment has increased +1.1% since AY 18-19 and +3.9% since last fall.

4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment – Excluding Dual Credit



Undergraduate enrollment, excluding dual credit, has increased 3.7% since last fall and nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

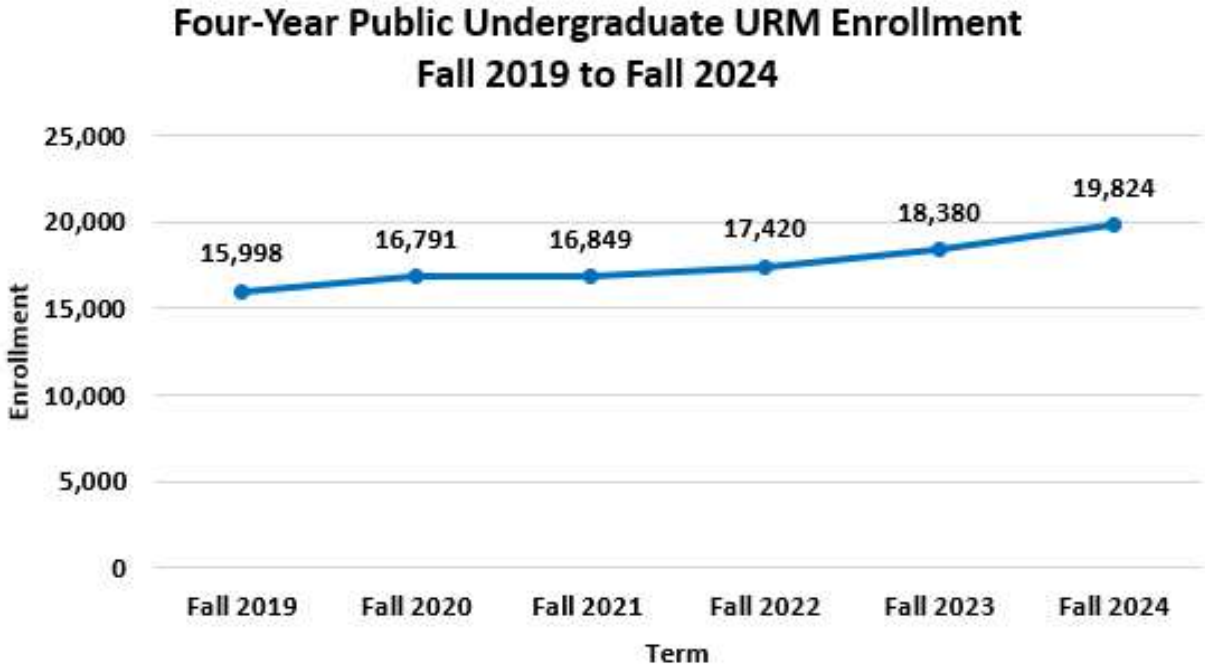
4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment – First-Time



First-time enrollment saw a dip in Fall 2021, consistent with overall enrollment, but has recovered from and surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

First-time enrollment has increased 2.2% from last fall and 8.3% from Fall 2019.

4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment - URM

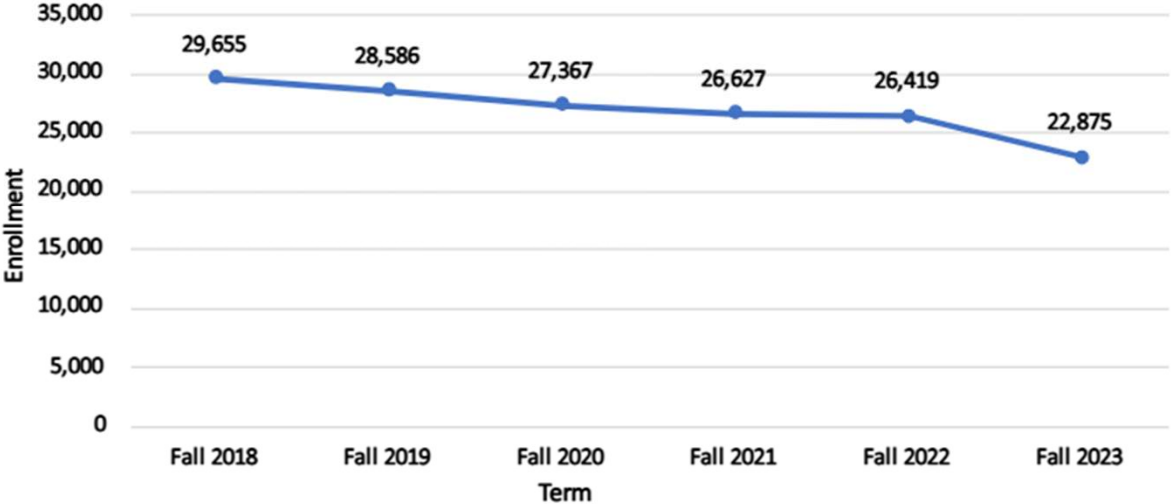


URM enrollment has increased steadily in the past five years.

URM enrollment has increased 7.9% from last fall and 23.9% over the past five years.

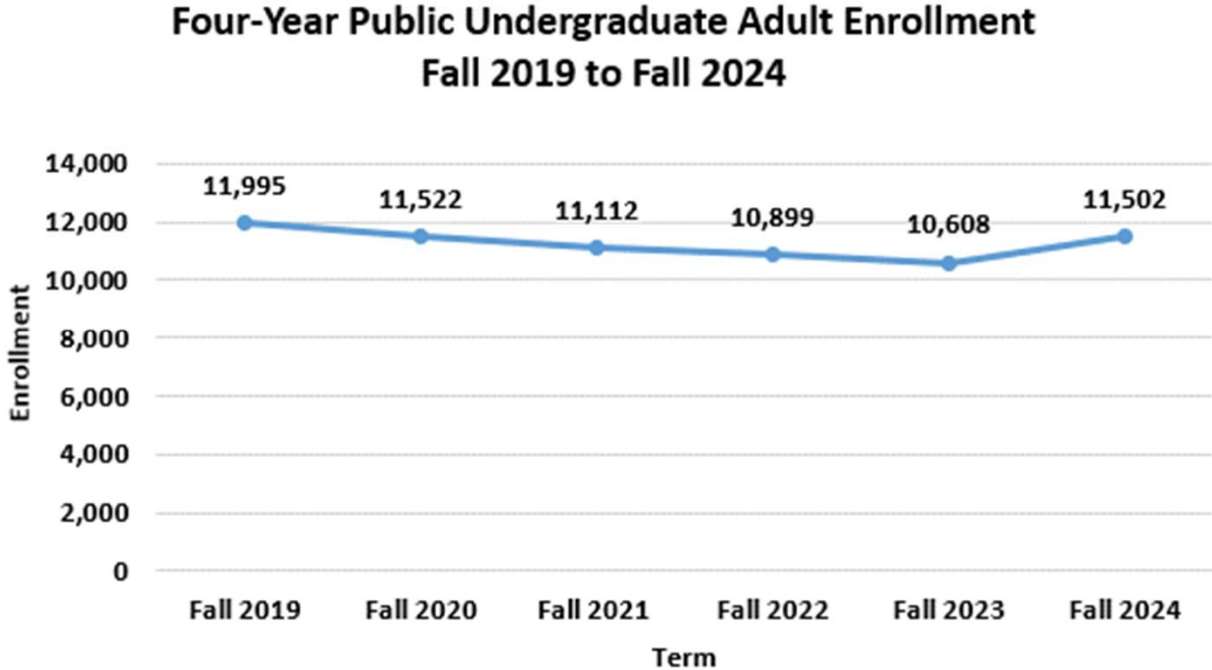
4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment – Low-Income

Four-Year Public Low-Income Undergraduate Enrollment, Fall 2018 to Fall 2023



Low-income enrollment has declined steadily over the last 5 years, decreasing 22.9% over the period and 13.4% from the prior year.

4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment – Adult

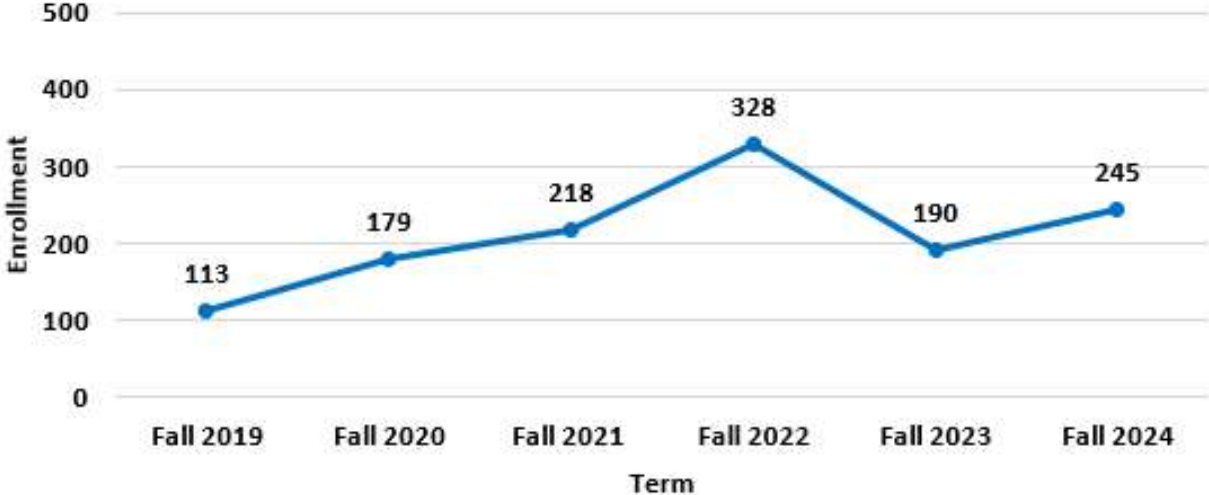


After a decade of decline, adult enrollment has experienced recent growth. This pattern transcends sectors.

There was 8.4% growth between Fall 2023 and Fall 2024.

4YR Public Undergraduate Enrollment – First-Time Adult

Four-Year Public Undergraduate First-Time Adult Enrollment, Fall 2019 to Fall 2024

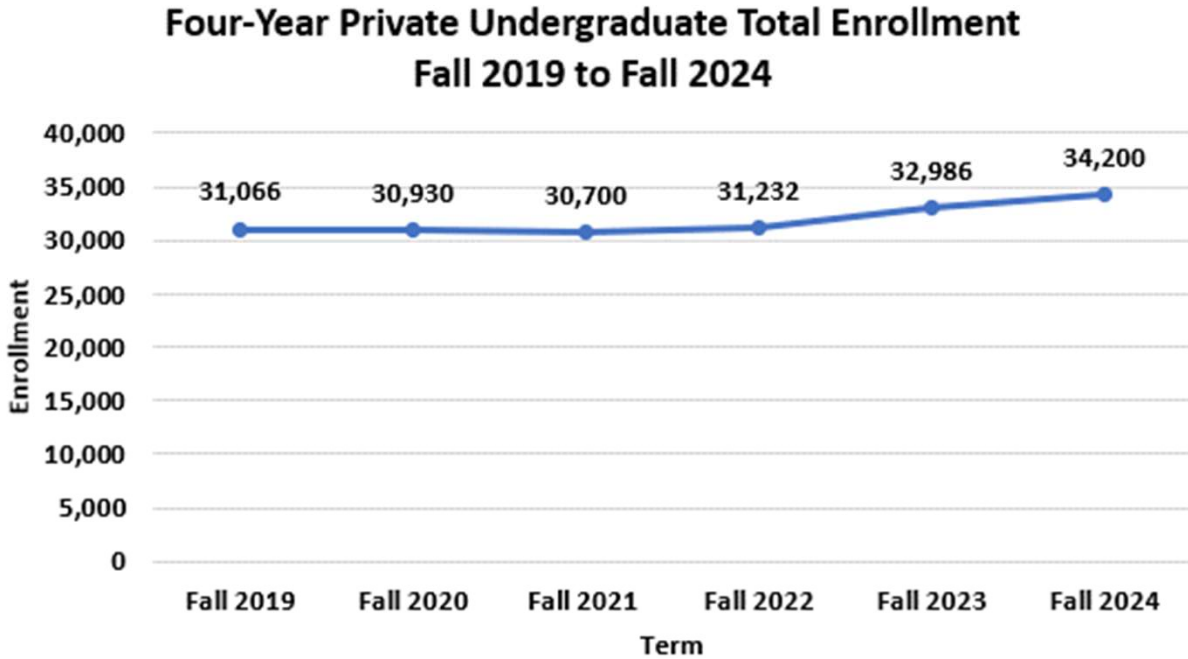


First-time adult enrollment has improved 116.8% since Fall 2019 and 28.9% since last fall.

4YR AIKCU Institution Undergraduate Enrollment Fall 2019 to Fall 2024



4YR Private Undergraduate Enrollment - Total

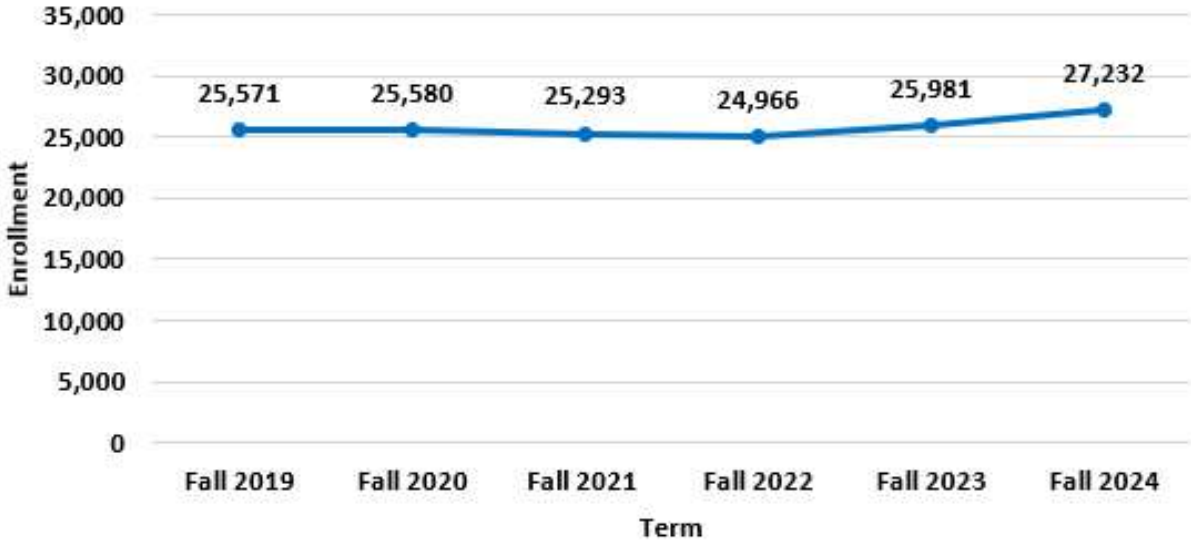


After seeing a dip in enrollment due to the pandemic in Fall 2020 and 2021, total undergraduate enrollment has recovered and surpassed pre-pandemic levels

Undergraduate enrollment has grown +10.1% since Fall 2019 and +3.7% since last fall.

4YR Private Undergraduate Enrollment – Total Excluding Dual Credit

**Four-Year Private Undergraduate Enrollment,
(Excluding Dual Credit) - Fall 2019 to Fall 2024**

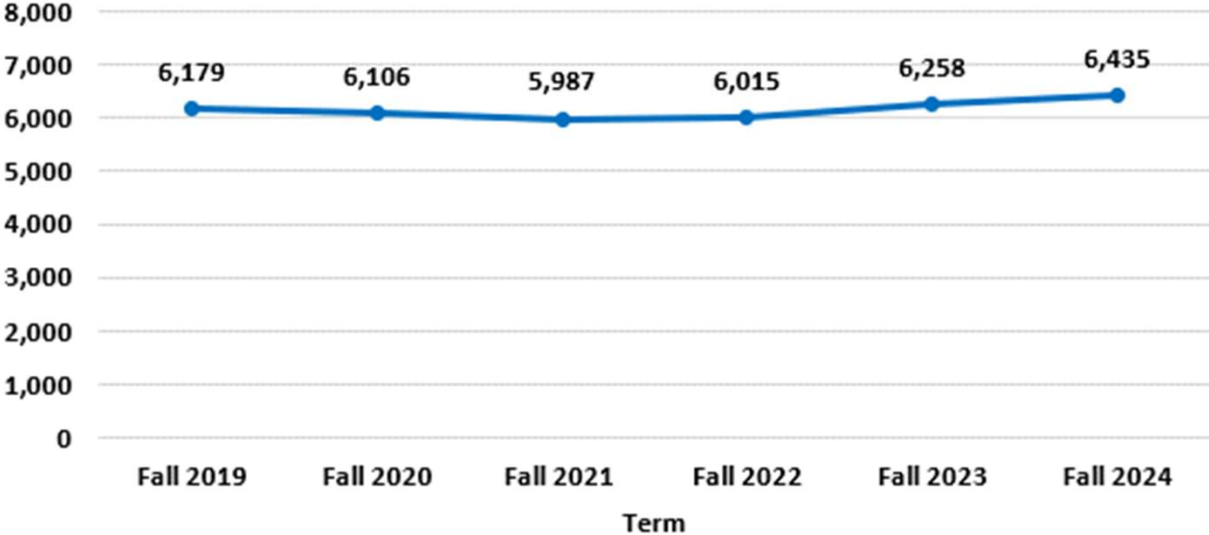


Undergraduate enrollment, excluding dual credit, has increased 6.5% over five years and 4.8% since last fall.

After a slight decline during the pandemic, dual credit enrollment now exceeds pre-pandemic levels.

4YR Private Undergraduate Enrollment – First-Time

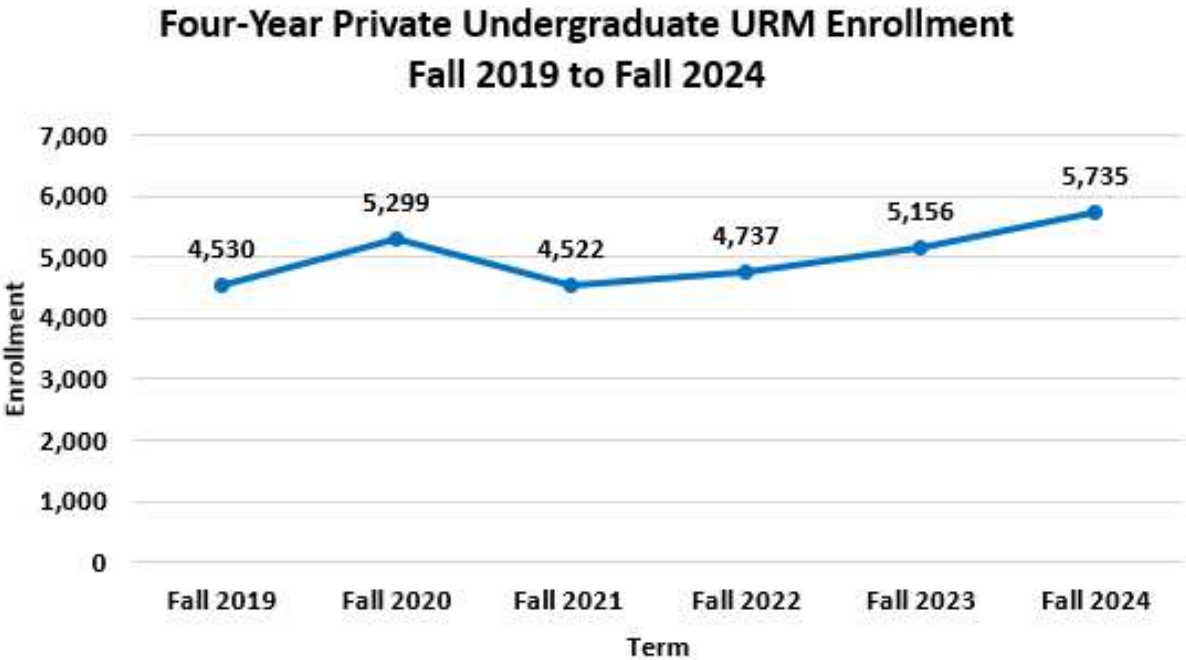
Four-Year Private Undergraduate First-Time Enrollment
Fall 2019 to Fall 2024



First-time enrollment has increased 4.1% over five years and 2.8% since last fall.

After a slight decline during the pandemic, first-time enrollment now exceeds pre-pandemic levels.

4YR Private Undergraduate Enrollment - URM

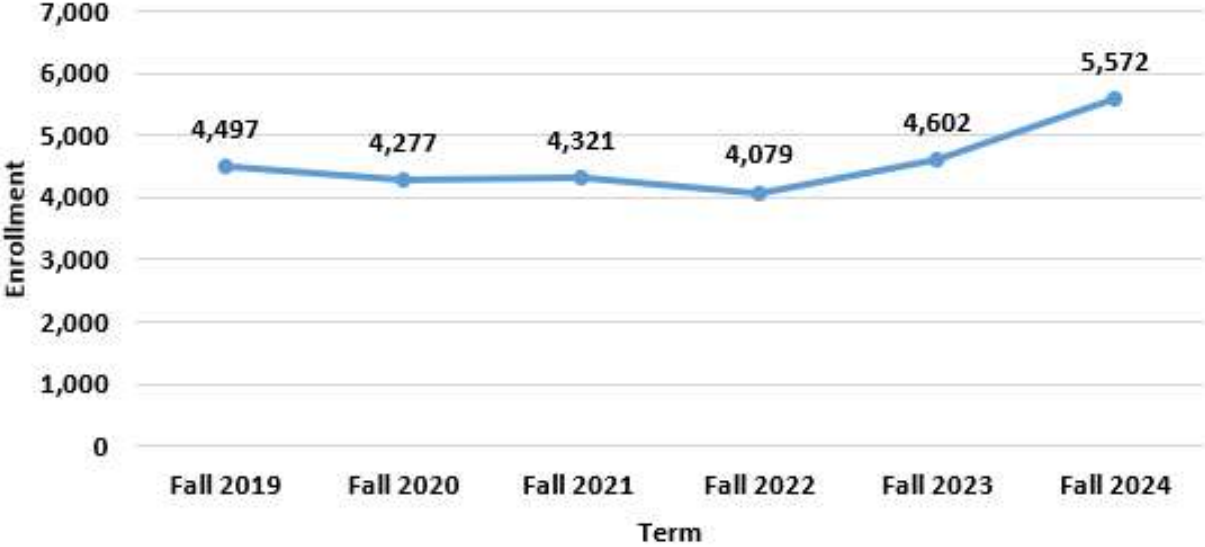


URM enrollment has increased 26.6% over five years and 11.2% since last fall.

After a moderate decline during the pandemic, URM enrollment now exceeds pre-pandemic levels.

4YR Private Undergraduate Enrollment – Adult

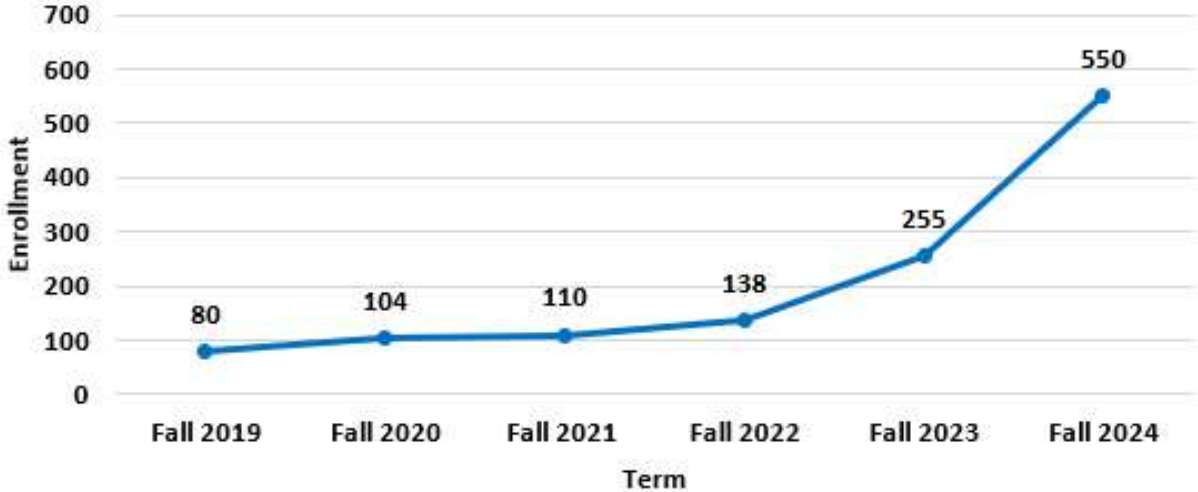
Four-Year Private Undergraduate Adult Enrollment
Fall 2019 to Fall 2024



Adult enrollment has increased 23.9% over five years and 21.1% since last fall.

4YR Private Undergraduate Enrollment – First-Time Adult

Four-Year Private Undergraduate First-Time Adult Enrollment, Fall 2019 to Fall 2024

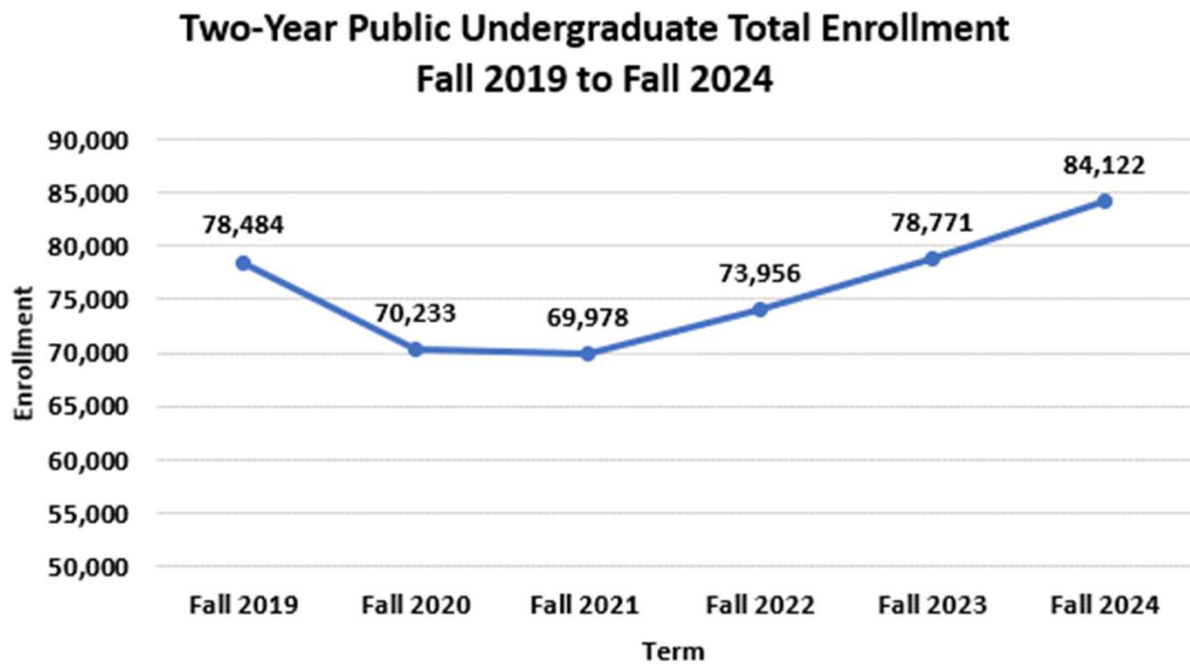


First-time adult enrollment has increased 587.5% over five years and 115.7% since last fall.

2YR Public Institution Undergraduate Enrollment Fall 2019 to Fall 2024



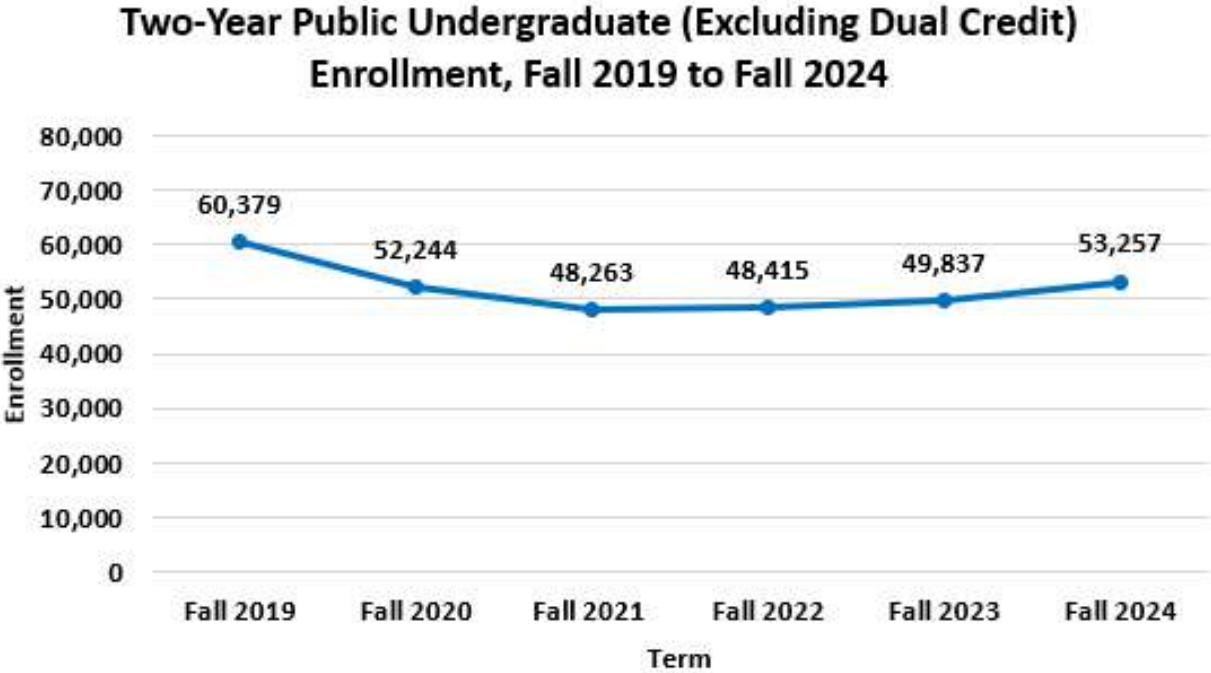
2YP Undergraduate Enrollment - Total



After a significant skid during the pandemic, KCTCS total enrollment has ballooned.

Since Fall 2019, total enrollment has grown 7.2%, including 6.8% since last fall.

2YP Undergraduate Enrollment – Total Excluding Dual Credit

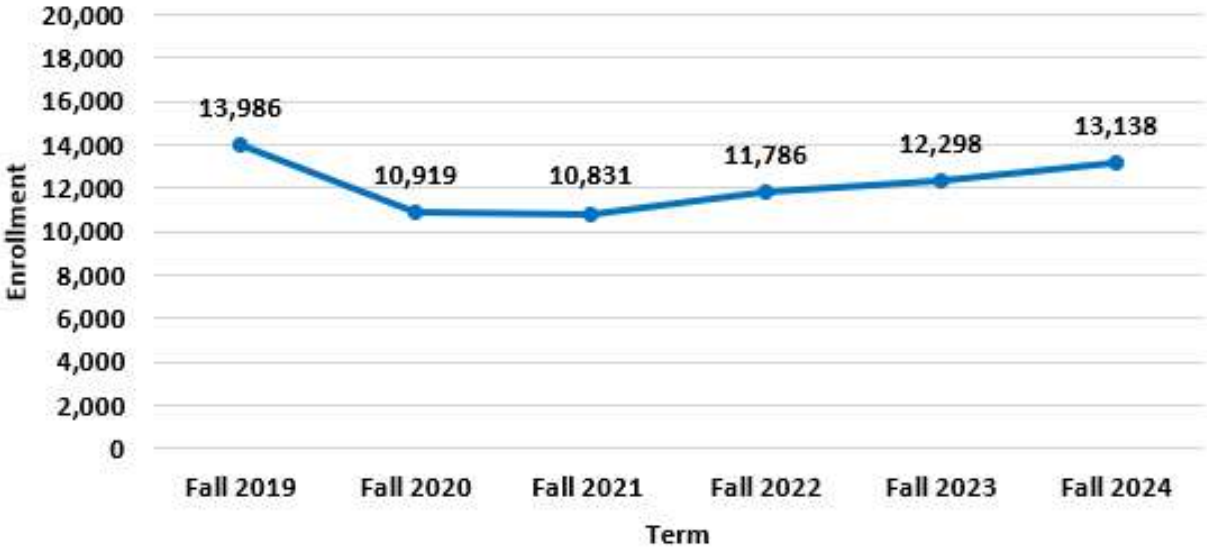


After seeing a dip in enrollment during the pandemic years, 2YP enrollment, excluding dual enrollment, is recovering.

2YP enrollment excluding dual credit increased 6.9% since last fall but is still down 11.8% from Fall 2019.

2YP Undergraduate Enrollment – First-Time

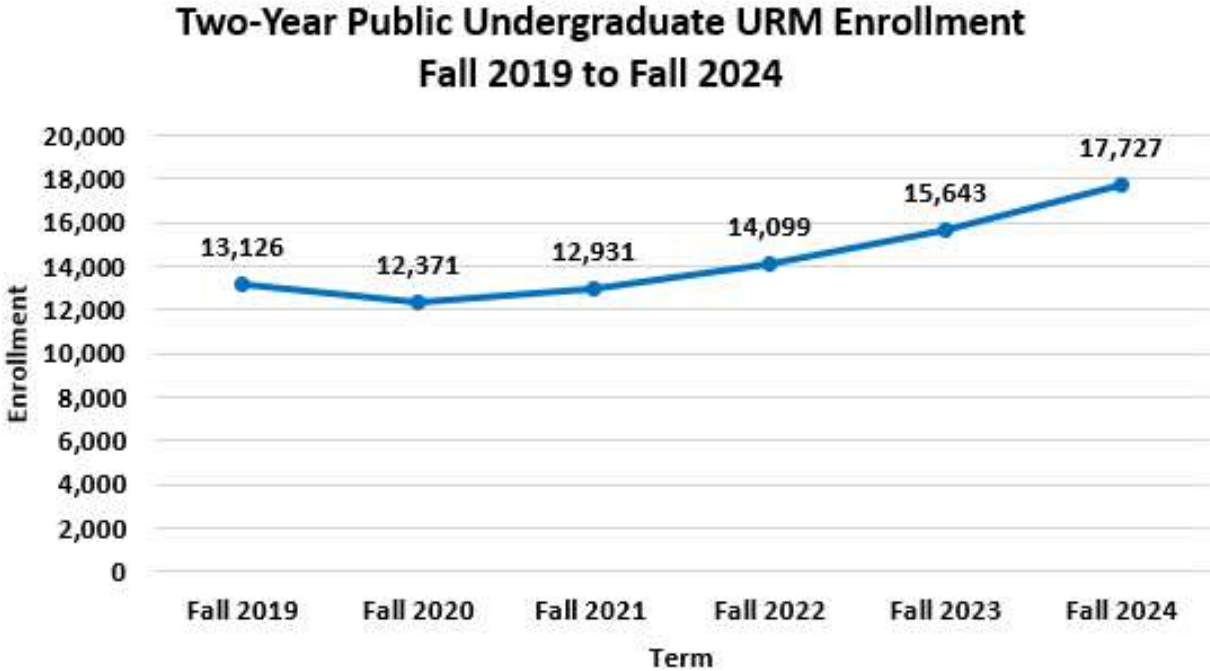
**Two-Year Public Undergraduate First-Time Enrollment
Fall 2019 to Fall 2024**



First-time enrollment saw a moderate dip during the pandemic, but has steadily increased since AY 21-22 and is nearing pre-pandemic levels

Specifically, first-time enrollment increased 6.8% since last fall, but it is still down 6.1% from Fall 2019.

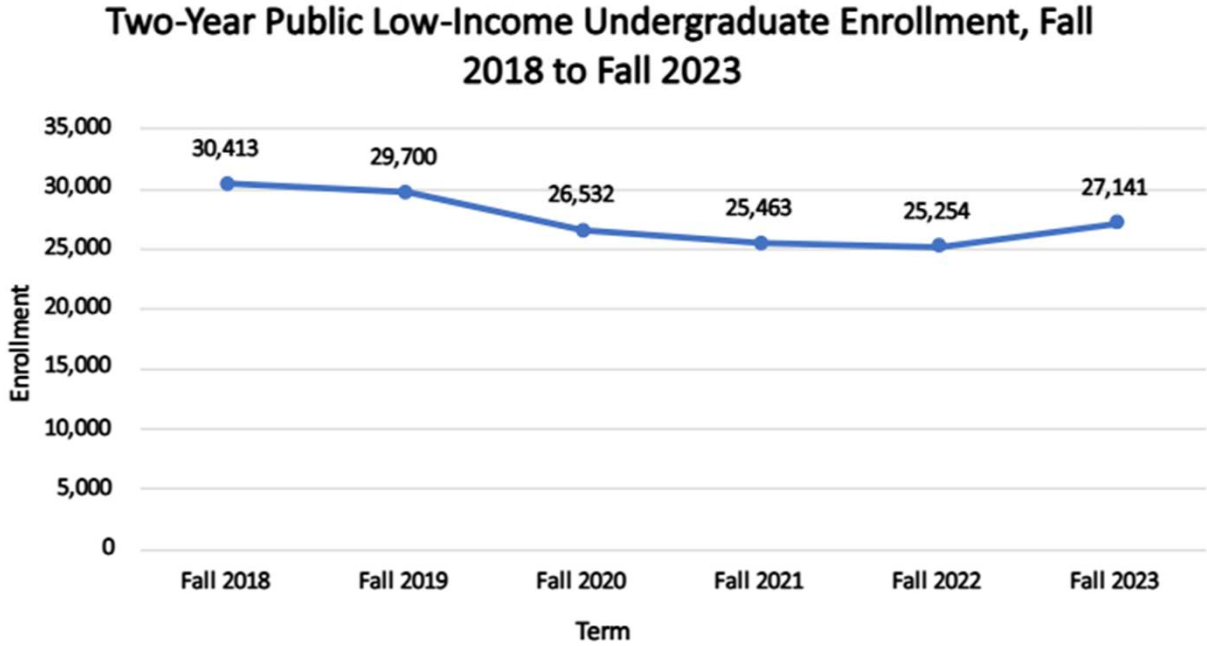
2YP Undergraduate Enrollment - URM



Like at four-year institutions, URM enrollment at 2YP was affected by the pandemic, but has skyrocketed since.

Since last fall, URM enrollment has increased 13.3%. Since Fall 2019, URM enrollment has increased by 35.1%.

2YP Undergraduate Enrollment – Low Income

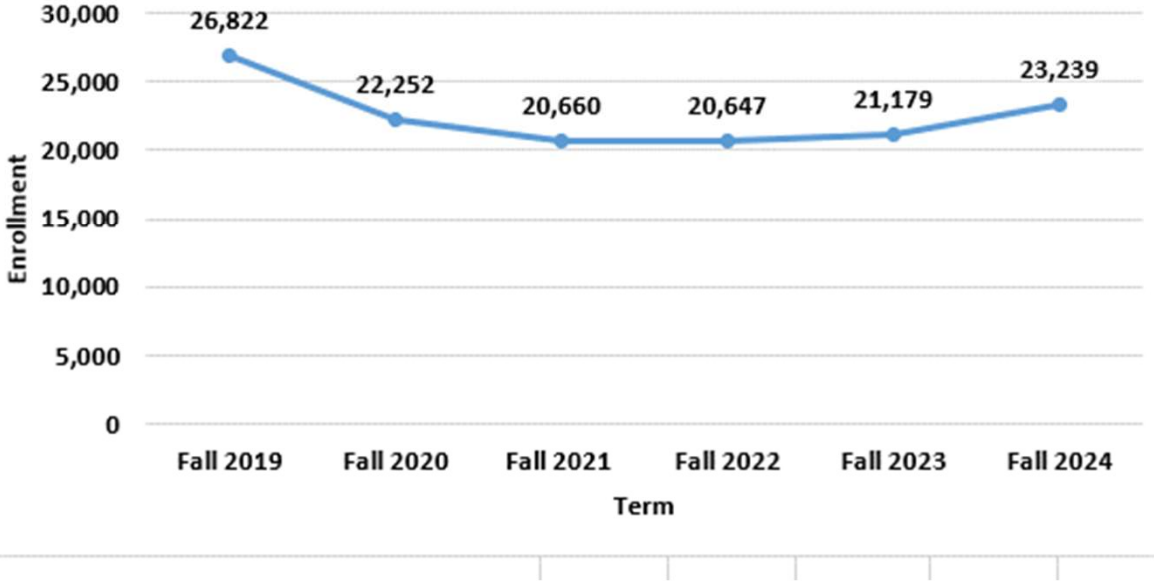


Low-income enrollment has been on the decline at 2YP, but we observed a significant rebound last year.

Over the period, low-income enrollment has decreased by 10.8% but grew 7.5% in the recent year.

2YP Undergraduate Enrollment – Adult

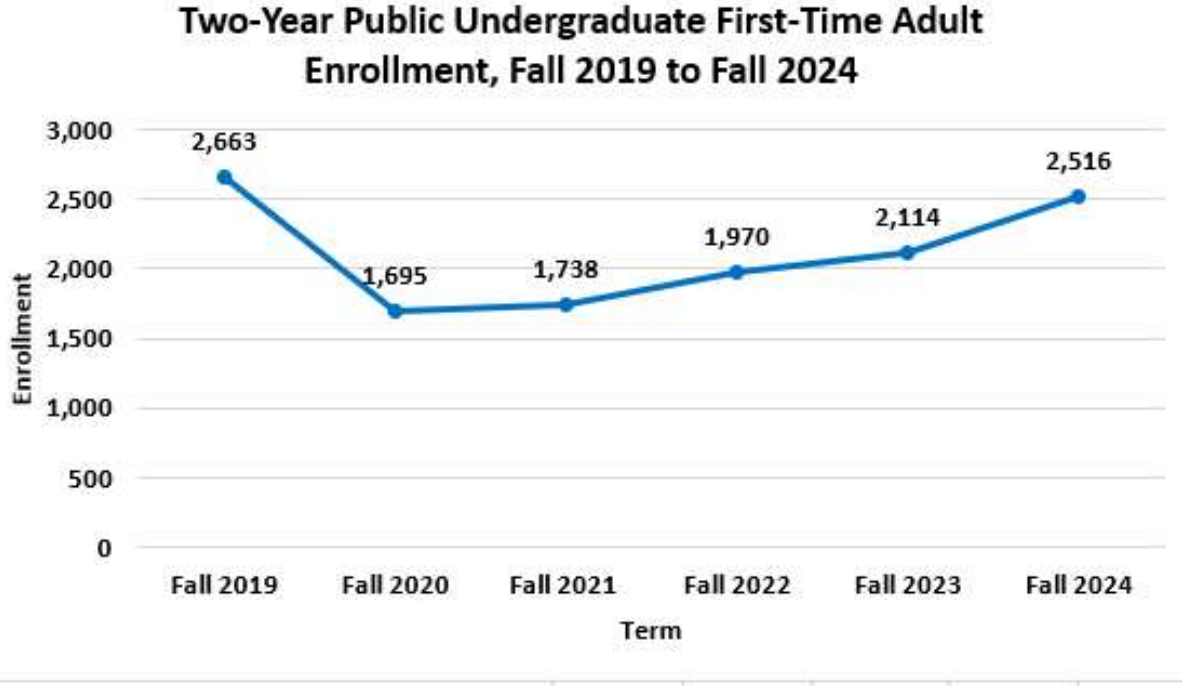
Two-Year Public Undergraduate Adult Enrollment
Fall 2019 to Fall 2024



As noted elsewhere, adult enrollment has been in steady decline in Kentucky and nationwide for over a decade.

At KCTCS, which serves most adult students, adult enrollment has grown two consecutive falls, including 9.7% since last fall.

2YP Undergraduate Enrollment – First-Time Adult



First-time adult enrollment was greatly impacted by the pandemic but has since experienced steady growth. It is returning to pre-pandemic levels

Despite being down 5.5% from fall 2019, first-time adult enrollment is up 19% since last fall.

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Data Center: **cpe.ky.gov/data**



Newsletter: **cpe.ky.gov/news/subscribe**



- TITLE:** Update from the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative
- DESCRIPTION:** The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee were introduced to the new staff members of the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC) and learned about the 2025 Student Success Summit.
- STAFF CONTACTS:** Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, Assistant Vice President of KYSSC
Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President, Student Access and Success
-

COMMITTEE’S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their January 27, 2025, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

KYSSC INFORMATION & STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Funded by the James Graham Brown Foundation and housed at CPE, the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative (KYSSC) serves as the first statewide center in the country that works with both two- and four-year institutions, linking campuses with nonprofit organizations, business leaders and state policy makers to identify challenges facing higher education students and develop strategies to address them. The goal of the initiative is to expand innovative approaches that will improve graduation rates, close equity gaps, enhance workforce development and increase learning opportunities for emerging leaders in higher education.

Over the last several months, the KYSSC has hired several new staff members to lead its work. Dr. Massa-McKinley will provide introductions at the meeting.

- Olivia Morris-Bush, Research Fellow
- Stephanie Cheung, Associate Director
- Ashley O’Neil, Associate Director
- Arion Jett-Seals, Associate Director
- Tracy Teater, Associate Director

2025 STUDENT SUCCESS SUMMIT

The fourteenth annual Kentucky Student Success Summit will be held on February 10-11, 2025, and focuses on leadership and how we, as individuals and as campuses, can foster

collaboration and innovation among Kentucky's campuses and other sectors. It features an opening keynote by Dr. Tristan Denley, who serves as deputy commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation at the Louisiana Board of Regents. His session will focus on the state's initiatives to create seamless transitions for students from admissions to transfer, as well as policy changes and innovative practices that aim to improve accessibility, reduce barriers, and streamline the path for students moving between two-year and four-year institutions. The full agenda can be found on the Summit page at: <https://cpe.ky.gov/studentsuccess/>.

TITLE: Interim Capital Project – Kentucky State University Betty White Building Renovation

DESCRIPTION: The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve a federally funded interim capital project at Kentucky State University that will renovate the Betty White Building.

STAFF CONTACT: Ryan Kaffenberger, Director, Finance Policy and Programs

COMMITTEE REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Finance Committee reviewed and endorsed for final approval the proposed interim capital project its January 27, 2025, meeting. The project was approved with the increased scope increase of \$2,853,330.45, pending approval by the KSU board at its January 31, 2025 meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Kentucky State University (KSU) staff request authorization for an interim capital project to renovate the Betty White Building (see Attachment A). The proposed project would be federally funded with Facility Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (see Attachment B). The renovation will transform the existing space to create two labs and additional classrooms and offices to address a critical shortage of such spaces related to the KSU Land Grant Program’s graduate studies. The renovation would also include replacing roofing, windows, and the HVAC system.

The KSU Board of Regents approved a total project scope of \$2,467,500 for this project at its December 6, 2024, meeting. As such, CPE staff’s recommendation reflects this amount. However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved this project at \$2,853,330.45 (see Attachment B). If this project is approved by the Council, KSU officials would take the project to their Board to approve a scope increase at their January 31, 2025, meeting allowing them to use the full \$2,853,330.45. Upon receiving Board approval for the scope increase, KSU officials would present the project to the Finance and Administration Cabinet and Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.

APPROVAL PROCESS

House Bill 592 (2018) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget

as long as the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations, do not jeopardize funding for existing programs, and are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The pertinent section of KRS 164A.575 is provided below:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
 - (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
 - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
 - (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

The approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or regents;
- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KCTCS and KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently submitted by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at EKV, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, and WKU are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not previously approved by the Council and it was not authorized in the enacted 2024-26 budget (HB 6), Council approval is now required to authorize this project. KSU will not be debt financing any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

NEXT STEPS

Following final action by the Council, CPE staff will notify the president of KSU, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee concerning this interim capital project.



January 22, 2025

Ryan Kaffenberger
Executive Director, Finance and Budget
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Dear Ryan,

Kentucky State University is requesting Council approval for a capital construction project exceeding one million dollars. This project was approved at the December 6, 2024 Kentucky State University Board of Regents meeting. While the Board approval for this project is \$2,467,500, the USDA has approved this project for \$2,853,330.45. The increase in the project will be presented to the Board at the January 31, 2025 meeting for their approval.

The project is the Renovation of the Betty White Building, which is being funded with USDA Facility Grant Funds. The KSU Land Grant Program has a critical shortage of laboratory and classroom space for graduate studies. This project will create two laboratories, as well as additional classrooms and offices, by redesigning and making better use of the space in the soon-to-be-vacant Betty White building. This project will include major infrastructure replacements such as the roof, windows and HVAC system.

Please contact me with any questions or if additional information is needed.

Jennifer Linton
Director of Capital Planning and Facilities Management

**United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
AWARD FACE SHEET**

Attachment B

1. Award No. 2019-45200-29220	2. Amendment No. 29	3. Proposal Number 2025-02421	4. Period of Performance 03/01/2019 through 02/28/2026	5. Type of Instrument Grant
6. Type of Action Revision	7. CFDA Number 10.500	8. FAIN 20194520029220	9. Method of Payment ASAP 45200292204520025000	10. CRIS Number 1018191

11. Authority:
7 U.S.C. 3222b, Section 1447 of 7 U.S.C. 3222b as reauthorized by Section 7112 of P.L. 113-79, 1890 Facilities

12. Agency (Name and Address) Awards Management Division National Institute of Food and Agriculture/USDA 805 Pennsylvania Ave Kansas City, MO 64105	13. Awardee Organization KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY FRANKFORT, KY 40601-2355
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14. Program Point of Contact: Rizana Mahroof Telephone: 803-465-3980 rizana.mahroof1@usda.gov	Administrative Point of Contact: Michael Collier Telephone: 251-298-2883 michael.collier2@usda.gov	15. Project Director/Performing Organization Marcus Bernard Kentucky State University Frankfort, KY 40601
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16. Funding:	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Non-Federal</u>	17. Funds Chargeable			
Previous Total	\$5,681,677.19	\$0.00	<u>FY-TAS- FDC</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FY-TAS-FDC</u>	<u>Amount</u>
+ or -	\$0.00	\$0.00	22-12X0502-45200	\$0.00		
Total	\$5,681,677.19	\$0.00				
Grand Total	\$5,681,677.19					

18. Title of Proposal
Kentucky State University Facility Grant Plan 2018-2023

PROVISIONS

This Award incorporates the following:

- The request(s) contained in the letter dated December 13th, 2024 have been reviewed by this office and the NIFA cognizant program official. NIFA approves the request as indicated below:
 - Create objective #13 Betty White Research Facility Renovation and allocate funds in the amount of \$2,853,330.45 from the following objectives
 - #1 \$26,876.41
 - #2 \$731,339.00
 - #3 \$635,626.96
 - #6 \$159,493.08
 - #8 \$1,300,000.00
 - Total \$2,853,330.45
 - Delete objectives #3 New Franklin Co. Farm Multi-Purpose Building and #8 Hunter Hall 3rd and 4th Floors and moving the funds from these objectives to #5 and #13
 - Reduction of the funds in the following amounts from the following objectives.
 - Reduce Objective #1 by \$26,846.41 and move to #13
 - Reduce Objective #2 by 819,339 moving funds to #7 \$88,000 and #13 \$731,339 and leaving \$992,160 for this objective
 - Reduce Objective #4 by \$250,000 moving funds to #7 and leaving \$378,131.19 for this objective
 - Reduce Objective #6 by \$159,493.08 moving to #13
 - Increase the funds in the following amounts for the following objectives.
 - Increase objective #5 by \$114,373.04
 - Increase objective #7 by \$338,000
- The May 2024 Facilities Terms and Conditions and the USDA/NIFA Agency-Specific Terms and Conditions shall supersede and

FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This award, subject to the provisions above, shall constitute an obligation of funds on behalf of the Government. Such obligation may be terminated without further cause unless the recipient commences the timely drawdown of funds; such drawdowns may not exceed one year from issuance date of the award.

Typed Name Mark Heap Authorized Departmental Officer	Signature MARK.HEAP	Date 12/31/2024
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**United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
AWARD FACE SHEET**

1. Award No. 2019-45200-29220	2. Amendment No. 29	3. Proposal Number 2025-02421	4. Period of Performance 03/01/2019 through 02/28/2026	5. Type of Instrument Grant
6. Type of Action Revision	7. CFDA Number 10.500	8. FAIN 20194520029220	9. Method of Payment ASAP 45200292204520025000	10. CRIS Number 1018191

11. Authority:
7 U.S.C. 3222b, Section 1447 of 7 U.S.C. 3222b as reauthorized by Section 7112 of P.L. 113-79, 1890 Facilities

12. Agency (Name and Address) Awards Management Division National Institute of Food and Agriculture/USDA 805 Pennsylvania Ave Kansas City, MO 64105	13. Awardee Organization KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY FRANKFORT, KY 40601-2355
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14. Program Point of Contact: Rizana Mahroof Telephone: 803-465-3980 rizana.mahroof1@usda.gov	Administrative Point of Contact: Michael Collier Telephone: 251-298-2883 michael.collier2@usda.gov	15. Project Director/Performing Organization Marcus Bernard Kentucky State University Frankfort, KY 40601
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16. Funding:	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Non-Federal</u>	17. Funds Chargeable			
Previous Total	\$5,681,677.19	\$0.00	<u>FY-TAS- FDC</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FY-TAS-FDC</u>	<u>Amount</u>
+ or -	\$0.00	\$0.00	22-12X0502-45200	\$0.00		
Total	\$5,681,677.19	\$0.00				
Grand Total	\$5,681,677.19					

18. Title of Proposal
Kentucky State University Facility Grant Plan 2018-2023

PROVISIONS

- replace the prior terms and conditions between the grantee and NIFA effective upon issuance of this amendment.
7. Failure to submit complete, accurate, and timely reports may result in possible award delays or enforcement actions. Federal Financial SF-425 forms are to be sent to 1890@usda.gov. Project progress reports are to be completed in the REEport portal located at <https://portal.nifa.usda.gov>. Questions regarding access to REEport should be directed to electronic@usda.gov. Additional information regarding grant management and closeout can be found at: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/lifecycle/post-award> and <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/lifecycle/close-out>.
8. Unless otherwise stated, all other Provisions on the initial Award Face Sheet and any amendments thereto remain in effect.
9. If you have any questions concerning this action, please contact the 1890s mailbox (1890@usda.gov) and cc' the Administrative Point of Contact listed above.

FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This award, subject to the provisions above, shall constitute an obligation of funds on behalf of the Government. Such obligation may be terminated without further cause unless the recipient commences the timely drawdown of funds; such drawdowns may not exceed one year from issuance date of the award.

TITLE: 2025-26 Tuition Setting Process

DESCRIPTION: The Finance Committee received an update on the 2025-26 tuition-setting process and discuss the *2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline* and the drafted *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26*.

STAFF CONTACTS: Bill Payne, Vice President for Finance Policy and Programs
Ryan Kaffenberger, Director of Finance Policy and Programs

COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Finance Committee received this information update at their January 27, 2025, meeting. It will not be presented in detail at the board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

TUITION SETTING TIMELINE

A copy of the *2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline* can be found in Attachment A to this agenda item. The Council plans to take action on staff's tuition ceiling recommendation at their April 17, 2025, meeting. The Council will take action on campus tuition and fee proposals on June 13, 2025. Between now and the April 17 meeting, staff will work with campus presidents and chief budget officers to finalize proposed changes to the Council's tuition policy and develop tuition and fee ceiling recommendations for academic year 2025-26.

TUITION AND MANDATORY FEE POLICY

A copy of the draft *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26* is included in Attachment B . This version of the policy has been shared and discussed with campus chief budget officers, but to date has not been vetted with institution presidents. As can be seen in the draft policy, other than a few wordsmithing changes, the main proposed changes are the elimination of Special Use Fee and Asset Preservation Fee exception provisions in the current policy. Background information about these exceptions and a rationale for their removal is provided below.

Special Use Fee Exception Policy

On April 28, 2011, the Council adopted a Special Use Fee Exception Policy that allowed Kentucky public postsecondary institutions, under certain conditions, to charge student

endorsed fees that would be excluded from consideration when assessing institutional compliance with Council-approved rate ceilings. The underlying rationale for the exception policy was that the Council and campus officials should accommodate the desires of students to assess a fee on themselves to construct new facilities or renovate existing facilities that support student activities and services, without sacrificing revenue necessary to sustain ongoing campus operations.

Fees that qualified for a Special Use Fee exemption were for a fixed, recurring amount that could not increase over time. For this reason, during the process of establishing tuition and fee ceilings, Council staff deducts these fees from total tuition and fees before applying a percent increase parameter. This keeps the fees at the same amount each year until they expire.

Between June 10, 2011, and June 12, 2015, the Council approved Special Use Fee exception requests for five institutions. Although several institutions have asked about Special Use Fee exceptions in recent years, the Council changed its stance on allowing exemptions from rate ceilings. Declining enrollment at most institutions, precipitated by decreasing numbers of high school graduates and falling college participation rates, brought about a renewed focus on affordability and increased transparency in college pricing.

For several years, it has been common practice for the Council to count all increases in mandatory fees toward tuition and fee rate ceilings and to not allow exceptions from the price caps, including exceptions for special use and asset preservation fees. For this reason, in the attached *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26*, staff is proposing that the Special Use Fee Exception Policy be terminated beginning in academic year 2025-26. In the coming weeks, staff will share and discuss this proposed change with campus presidents and bring a final recommendation to the Council at their April 17, 2025, meeting.

Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy

On February 2, 2018, the Council adopted an Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy that allowed institutions the option of charging student fees for asset preservation that would not be considered when assessing compliance with Council-approved tuition ceilings. Under the new policy, an institution could request a new mandatory fee supporting the renovation or renewal of an existing instructional facility and, if approved, neither the percent nor the dollar increase associated with that fee would count toward a rate ceiling established by the Council.



The rationale for this exception stemmed from a desire on the part of postsecondary education stakeholders to address an overwhelming asset preservation and renovation need (estimated to be \$7.3 billion in 2013) through sizable and sustained investment in existing postsecondary facilities. There was a realization among policymakers that addressing a need of this magnitude could best be accomplished through a cost-sharing arrangement involving the state, postsecondary institutions, and students and families.



Fees that qualified for an Asset Preservation Fee exemption were for a fixed, recurring amount that could not increase over time. For this reason, during the process of setting tuition ceilings, staff deducts these fees from total tuition and fees before applying a percent increase parameter. This keeps the fees at the same amount each year until they expire.

Between June 22, 2018, and April 26, 2019, the Council approved Asset Preservation Fee exception requests for four institutions. Although several institutions have recently inquired about the possibility of adopting a new Asset Preservation Fee and receiving an exemption, as previously mentioned, the Council changed its stance on allowing fees to be assessed outside the caps. Since 2019, there has been a renewed focus on affordability and transparency in college pricing.

For several years, it has been common practice for the Council to count all increases in mandatory fees toward tuition and fee rate ceilings and to not allow exceptions from the price caps, including exceptions for special use and asset preservation fees. For this reason, in the attached *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26*, staff is proposing that the Asset Preservation Use Fee Exception Policy be terminated beginning in academic year 2025-26. In coming weeks, staff will share and discuss this proposed change with campus presidents and bring a final recommendation to the Council at its April 17, 2025, meeting.

Council on Postsecondary Education 2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline

- Nov 13, 2024 CBO Meeting – Council staff will share the current *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* and a Preliminary 2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline with campus chief budget officers. Possible changes to the policy and timeline will be discussed.
-  Nov 15, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting – Council staff will share the current *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* and a Preliminary 2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline with committee members and provide an overview of the tuition setting process.
- Nov 22, 2024 **CPE Meeting** – The Chair of the Finance Committee will share the current *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* and a Preliminary 2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline with the full Council and describe the tuition-setting process.
- Nov – Jan Council staff will update policy relevant data in the areas of funding adequacy, shared benefits and responsibility, affordability and access, effective use of resources, and attracting and importing talent. Staff will work with campus CBOs to identify proposed changes to the *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* and finalize the *2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline*.
- Dec 4, 2024 Presidents' Meeting – Staff will share a Preliminary 2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline and the current *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy* with campus presidents. Potential changes to the timeline and policy will be discussed.
- Dec 18, 2024 CBO Meeting – Council staff and CBOs will review and discuss the Preliminary 2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline and proposed changes to the current *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy*. Using input from CBOs, staff will finalize timeline.
-  Jan 27, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting – Council staff will update committee members regarding the 2025-26 tuition setting process. Copies of the *2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline* and a draft *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26* will be shared for committee review and comment.
- Jan 31, 2025 **CPE Meeting** – The Finance Committee Chair will provide an update on the status of the 2025-26 tuition setting process and share copies of the *2025-26 Tuition Setting Timeline* and a draft *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26* for Council member review and discussion.
- Jan – Feb Council staff will finalize updates of policy relevant data in the areas of funding adequacy, shared benefits and responsibility, affordability and access, effective use of resources, and attracting and importing talent and work with institutions to identify key issues that could impact the 2025-26 tuition-setting cycle.
- Jan – Feb Campus officials will collect and submit data to CPE on fixed cost increases, tuition revenue estimates, potential impact of tuition increases, anticipated uses of tuition revenue, and budgeted student financial aid expenditures.

- Feb 5, 2025 Presidents' Meeting – Staff will share the draft *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26* with campus presidents and proposed changes to the policy will be discussed and finalized.
- Feb 19, 2025 CBO Meeting — Council staff and campus CBOs will review and discuss key issues and other policy relevant data that could impact the upcoming tuition-setting cycle and will begin discussing proposed tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for academic year 2025-26.
- Feb 28, 2025 **Deadline** for campus submission of fixed cost and tuition revenue data.
- Mar 5, 2025 Presidents' Meeting – Council staff and campus presidents will review key issues and other policy relevant data and engage in preliminary discussions regarding tuition and fee ceilings for academic year 2025-26.
- Mar 19, 2025 CBO Meeting — Council staff and campus CBOs will continue discussing key issues and potential tuition and fee ceilings for academic year 2025-26.
- Apr 2, 2025 Presidents' Meeting – Council staff and campus presidents will finalize a proposed tuition and fee ceiling recommendation for academic year 2025-26.
-  Apr 14, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting – Council staff will present the *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26* and recommended 2025-26 tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for committee review and action.
- Apr 17, 2025 **CPE Meeting** – The Chair of the Finance Committee will present the *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for Academic Year 2025-26* and recommended 2025-26 tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for Council action.
- Apr – May Campus officials will submit to the Council proposed 2025-26 tuition and mandatory fee charges for all categories students, including rates by degree level (undergraduate and graduate), residency (in-state and out-of-state), and attendance status (full-time and part-time). The Council president will keep Council members updated regarding the status of campus rate proposals.
- May 7, 2025 Presidents' Meeting – Council staff will remind the presidents of an approaching deadline for submitting campus tuition and fee rate proposals.
- May 23, 2025 **Deadline** for submitting campus tuition and fee rate proposals to the Council.
-  June 9, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting – Council staff will present campus 2025-26 tuition and mandatory fee rate proposals for committee review and action.
- Jun 13, 2025 **CPE Meeting** – The Chair of the Finance Committee will present campus tuition and fee rate proposals for Council action.

Council Postsecondary Education

[Draft] Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy

Academic Years ~~2023-24 and 2024-25~~ 2025-26

The Council on Postsecondary Education is vested with authority under KRS 164.020 to determine tuition at public postsecondary ~~education~~-institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Kentucky's goals of increasing educational attainment, promoting research, assuring academic quality, and engaging in regional stewardship must be balanced with current needs, effective use of resources, and prevailing economic conditions. For the purposes of this policy, ~~rate ceilings established by the Council include both tuition and mandatory fees~~ ~~are included in the definition of tuition~~. During periods of relative austerity, the proper alignment of the state's limited financial resources requires increased attention to the goals of the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (HB 1) and the *Council's 2022-30 Strategic Agenda for Kentucky Postsecondary ~~and Adult~~ Education*.

Fundamental Objectives

- Funding Adequacy

HB 1 ~~states~~ ~~requires~~ that Kentucky ~~shall~~ have a seamless, integrated system of postsecondary education, strategically planned and adequately funded to enhance economic development and quality of life. In discharging its responsibility to determine tuition, the Council, in collaboration with the institutions, seeks to balance the affordability of postsecondary education for Kentucky's citizens with the institutional funding necessary to accomplish the goals of HB 1 and the Strategic Agenda.

- Shared Benefits and Responsibility

Postsecondary education attainment benefits the public at large in the form of a strong economy and an informed citizenry, and it benefits individuals through elevated quality of life, broadened career opportunities, and increased lifetime earnings. The Council and the institutions believe that funding postsecondary education is a shared responsibility of state and federal governments, students and families, and ~~the~~ postsecondary ~~education~~-institutions.

- Affordability and Access

~~Since broad~~ ~~Broad~~ educational attainment is essential to a vibrant state economy and to intellectual, cultural, and political vitality. ~~For this reason~~, the Commonwealth of Kentucky seeks to ensure that postsecondary education is broadly accessible to its citizens. The Council and the institutions are committed to ensuring that college is affordable and accessible to all academically qualified Kentuckians with particular emphasis on ~~dual credit students, underrepresented students, including first-generation college students and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, adult learners, and part-time students, minority students, and students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds~~.

The Council believes that no citizen of the Commonwealth who has the drive and ability to succeed should be denied access to postsecondary education in Kentucky because of inability

to pay. Access should be provided through a reasonable combination of savings, **student and family contributions**, **work-employment**, and financial aid, including grants and loans.

In developing a tuition and **mandatory fees-fee** recommendation, the Council and the institutions shall work collaboratively and pay **careful** attention to balancing the cost of attendance—including tuition and mandatory fees, room and board, books, and other direct and indirect costs—with **students' ability to pay** the ability of students and families to pay. **This will be accomplished** by taking into account: (1) students' family and individual income; (2) federal, state, and institutional scholarships and grants; (3) students' and parents' reliance on loans; (4) access to all postsecondary education alternatives; and (5) the need to enroll and graduate more students.

- **Effective Use of Resources**

Kentucky's postsecondary education system is committed to using the financial resources invested in it as effectively and productively as possible to advance the goals of HB 1 and the Strategic Agenda, including undergraduate and graduate education, engagement and outreach, research, and **economic development-workforce** initiatives. The colleges and universities seek to ensure that every dollar available to them is **invested in areas that utilized to maximize results and return on investment and achieve** outcomes most beneficial to the Commonwealth and its regions. **It is anticipated that enactment of** Senate Bill 153, the *Postsecondary Education Performance Funding Bill*, **enacted** during the 2017 **legislative-regular** session **will provide provides** ongoing incentives for increased efficiency and productivity within Kentucky's public postsecondary system. The Council's Strategic Agenda and funding model metrics will be used to monitor progress toward attainment of both statewide and institutional HB 1 and Strategic Agenda goals **and objectives**.

- **Attracting and Importing Talent to Kentucky**

It is unlikely that Kentucky **can-cannot** reach its 2030 postsecondary education attainment goal by focusing on Kentucky residents alone. The Council and the institutions are committed to making Kentucky institutions financially attractive to nonresident students, while recognizing that nonresident undergraduate students should pay a **significantly larger proportion-larger share** of the cost of their education than do resident students. Tuition reciprocity agreements, which provide low-cost access to out-of-state institutions for Kentucky students that live near the borders of other states, also serve to attract students from surrounding states to Kentucky's colleges and universities.

A copy of the Council's nonresident student tuition and **mandatory-fee** policy is **contained in the paragraphs-provided** below. **Going forward,** Council staff will periodically review and evaluate the policy to determine its impact on attracting and retaining **nonresident** students that enhance diversity and the state's competitiveness.

Nonresident Student Tuition and Fees

The Council and the institutions believe that nonresident students should pay a larger share of their educational costs than do resident students. As such, published tuition and fee **levels-rates** adopted for nonresident students shall be higher than the prices **charged** for resident students enrolled in comparable programs of study.

In addition, every institution shall manage its tuition and fee rate structures, price discounting, and scholarship aid for out-of-state students, such that in any given year, the average net tuition and fee revenue generated per nonresident undergraduate student equals or exceeds 130% of the annual full-time tuition and fee charge assessed to resident undergraduate students (i.e., the published in-state sticker price). As part of the tuition and fee setting process, staff shall monitor and report annually to the Council regarding compliance with this requirement.

The Council acknowledges that in some instances increasing nonresident student enrollment benefits both the Commonwealth and the institution. For this reason, exceptions to the 130% threshold may be requested through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Council. The main objective of the MOU process is to clearly delineate goals and strategies embedded in enrollment management plans that advance the unique missions of requesting institutions.

Special Use Fee Exception Policy

~~During the 2010-11 tuition setting process, campus officials requested that the Council consider excluding student-endorsed fees from its mandatory fee definition, thus omitting consideration of such fees when assessing institutional compliance with Council approved tuition and fee rate ceilings. Based on feedback received from institutional Chief Budget Officers (CBOs) at their December 2010 meeting, it was determined that there was general interest in treating student-endorsed fees differently from other mandatory fees.~~

~~In January and February 2011, Council staff collaborated with institutional presidents, CBOs, and their staffs in developing the following Special Use Fee Exception Policy:~~

- ~~• To the extent that students attending a Kentucky public college or university have deliberated, voted on, and requested that their institution's governing board implement a special use fee for the purposes of constructing and operating and maintaining a new facility, or renovating an existing facility, that supports student activities and services.~~
- ~~• And recognizing that absent any exemption, such student-endorsed fees, when implemented in the same year that the Council adopts tuition and fee rate ceilings, would reduce the amount of additional unrestricted tuition and fee revenue available for an institution to support its E&G operation.~~
- ~~• The Council may elect to award an exemption to its tuition and fee rate ceiling equivalent to all or a portion of the percentage increase resulting from imposition of the student-endorsed fee, provided said fee meets certain eligibility requirements.~~

Definitions

~~A student-endorsed fee is a mandatory flat-rate fee that has been broadly discussed, voted on, and requested by students and adopted by an institution's governing board, the revenue from which may be used to pay debt service and operations and maintenance expenses on new facilities, or capital renewal and replacement costs on existing facilities and equipment that support student activities and services, such as student unions, fitness centers, recreation complexes, health clinics, and/or tutoring centers.~~

~~Maintenance and Operations (M&O) expenses are costs incurred for the administration, supervision, operation, maintenance, preservation, and protection of a facility. Examples of M&O expenses include janitorial services, utilities, care of grounds, security, environmental safety, routine repair, maintenance, replacement of furniture and equipment, and property and facility planning and management.~~

Eligibility Criteria

~~A student endorsed fee will continue to be a mandatory fee within the context of the Council's current mandatory fee definition and may qualify for an exemption from Council approved tuition and fee rate ceilings. Campus officials and students requesting an exemption under this policy must be able to demonstrate that:~~

- ~~• All enrolled students have been afforded ample opportunity to be informed, voice their opinions, and participate in the decision to endorse a proposed fee. Specifically, it must be shown that fee details have been widely disseminated, broadly discussed, voted on while school is in session, and requested by students.~~
- ~~• For purposes of this policy, voted on means attaining:
 - a) a simple majority vote via campus wide referendum, with a minimum of one quarter of currently enrolled students casting ballots;
 - b) a three quarters vote of elected student government representatives; or
 - c) a simple majority vote via campus wide referendum, conducted in conjunction and coinciding with the general election of a student government president or student representative to a campus board of regents or board of trustees.~~
- ~~• The proposed fee and intended exemption request have been presented to, and adopted by, the requesting institution's governing board. It is anticipated that elected student government representatives will actively participate in board presentations.~~
- ~~• Revenue from such fees will be used to pay debt service and M&O expenses on new facilities, or capital renewal and replacement costs on existing facilities and equipment that support student activities and services, such as student unions, fitness centers, recreation complexes, health clinics, and/or tutoring centers. The Council expects these uses to be fully explained to students prior to any votes endorsing a fee.~~
- ~~• In any given year, the impact of a student endorsed fee on the overall increase in tuition and mandatory fees for students and their families will be reasonable. It may be appropriate to phase in the exemption over multiple years to maintain affordability and access.~~
- ~~• Requests for student endorsed exemptions are infrequent events. The Council does not expect requests for exemptions under this policy to occur with undue frequency from any single institution and reserves the right to deny requests that by their sheer number are deemed excessive.~~
- ~~• A plan is in place for the eventual reduction or elimination of the fee upon debt retirement, and details of that plan have been shared with students. The Council does not expect a~~

~~fee that qualifies for an exemption under this policy to be assessed at full rate in perpetuity. Such fees should either terminate upon completion of the debt or, in the case of new facilities, may continue at a reduced rate to defray ongoing M&O costs. In either case, to qualify for an exemption, students should be fully aware of the extent of their obligation prior to any votes endorsing a fee.~~

Exemption Process

~~Requests for an exemption under this policy will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. To initiate the process:~~

- ~~• The requesting institution will notify Council staff of any pending discussions, open forums, referendums, or student government actions pertaining to a proposed special use fee and discuss fee details with Council staff as needed.~~
- ~~• After a fee has been endorsed by student referendum or through student government action and approved by the institution's governing board, campus officials and students will submit a written exemption request to the Council for its consideration.~~
- ~~• Council staff will review the request, assess whether or not the proposed fee qualifies for an exemption, and make a recommendation to the Council.~~

~~To facilitate the exemption request process, requesting institutions and students are required to provide the Council with the following information:~~

- ~~• Documents certifying that the specific project and proposed fee details have been widely disseminated, broadly discussed, voted on, and requested by students, as well as adopted by the institution's governing board.~~
- ~~• Documents specifying the fee amount, revenue estimates, uses of revenue, impact on tuition and fees during the year imposed (i.e., percentage points above the ceiling), and number of years the fee will be in place.~~
- ~~• Documents identifying the project's scope, time frame for completion, debt payment schedule, and plan for the eventual reduction or elimination of the fee upon debt retirement.~~

On April 28, 2011 the Council adopted a Special Use Fee Exception Policy that allowed Kentucky public postsecondary institutions, under certain conditions, to implement student endorsed fees that would be excluded from consideration when assessing institutional compliance with Council approved rate ceilings. In other words, in any given year, an institution could request, and the Council could approve, a new mandatory fee for the purposes of constructing a new facility or renovating an existing facility that would support student activities or services on campus but would not count toward a rate or dollar increase ceiling established by the Council.

Specifically, a Special Use Fee was defined in the policy as follows:

A student endorsed fee is a mandatory flat-rate fee, that has been broadly discussed, voted on, and requested by students and adopted by an institution's governing board,

the revenue from which may be used to pay debt service and operations and maintenance expenses on new facilities, or capital renewal and replacement costs on existing facilities and equipment, that support student activities and services, such as student unions, fitness centers, recreation complexes, health clinics, and/or tutoring centers.

The underlying rationale for the exception policy was that the Council and campus officials wanted to accommodate the desires of students to assess a fee on themselves to improve facilities that sustain student activities and services, without sacrificing revenue necessary to support institutional operations. Under the Council's previous approach, such fees, when implemented in the same year that the Council adopted a tuition and fee rate ceiling, would reduce the amount of unrestricted tuition and fee revenue available for the institution to support its Education and General (E&G) operation.

Fees that qualified for a Special Use Fee exemption were for a fixed, recurring amount that could not increase over time. For this reason, during the process of establishing tuition and fee ceilings, Council staff deducts these fees from total tuition and fees before applying a percent increase parameter. This keeps the fees at the same amount each year until they expire. In other words, percent increase parameters adopted by the Council are applied to current-year base rates. Base rates are defined as total tuition and fee charges, minus any Special Use Fees or Asset Preservation Fees previously approved by the Council, and minus an existing agency bond fee at KCTCS (i.e., BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness Fee).

Council policy stipulates that Special Use Fees will not be assessed at full rate in perpetuity, but will either terminate upon completion of the debt, or in the case of new facilities, continue at a reduced rate to defray ongoing maintenance and operations (M&O) costs. In addition, institutions are required to have a plan for the eventual reduction or elimination of the fee upon debt retirement.

Between June 10, 2011 and June 12, 2015, the Council approved Special Use Fee exception requests for five institutions. Although several institutions have asked about Special Use Fee exceptions in recent years, the Council changed its stance on allowing exemptions from rate ceilings. Declining enrollment at most institutions, precipitated by decreasing numbers of high school graduates and falling college participation rates, brought about a renewed focus on affordability and increased transparency in college pricing.

For several years, it has been a common practice for the Council to count all increases in mandatory fees toward tuition and fee rate ceilings and to not allow exceptions from the price caps. For this reason, the Special Use Fee Exception Policy will be terminated beginning in academic year 2025-26.

Although institutions will no longer be able to request exemptions from tuition and fee rate ceilings, periodic reporting requirements for Special Use Fees will remain in effect. Specifically, upon request by the Council, institutions will provide documentation certifying the date a Special Use Fee was implemented, annual amounts of fee revenue generated to date, uses of fee revenue, the amount of fee revenue or agency bond funds used to finance facilities that support student activities and services, and the number of years the fee will remain in place.

Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy

During the 2017-18 tuition setting process, campus officials asked if the Council would consider allowing institutions to assess a new student fee, dedicated to supporting expenditures for asset preservation and renovation projects, that would be treated as being outside the tuition and fee caps set annually by the Council. Staff responded that it was too late in the process to allow for a full vetting of a proposed change to the Council's Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy prior to the Council adopting tuition ceilings at the March 31, 2017 meeting. In addition, staff wanted to explore the possibility of adopting a system-wide asset preservation fee that would benefit and address asset preservation needs at every public postsecondary institution.

In August 2017, staff determined that there was general interest among campus officials to pursue a change in tuition policy that would allow each institution the option to implement a student fee for asset preservation, if its administrators and governing board chose to do so, that would be exempted from Council-approved tuition and fee ceilings. In September and October, Council staff worked with campus presidents, chief budget officers, and Budget Development Work Group members to develop the Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy described below:

- Given that in 2007, Council and postsecondary institution staffs contracted with Vanderweil Facilities Advisors, Inc. (VFA) and Paulien and Associates to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Kentucky's public postsecondary education facilities to determine both system and individual campus needs for new and expanded space, asset preservation and renovation, and fit-for-use capital projects.
- Given that in 2013, VFA adjusted the data from its 2007 study to account for continuing aging of postsecondary facilities and rising construction costs and projected that the cumulative need for asset preservation and fit-for-use expenditure would grow to \$7.3 billion within the 2017 to 2021 timeframe.
- Given that over the past five biennia, 2008-10 through 2016-18, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has appropriated a total of \$262.0 million for its public colleges and universities to address asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use projects, representing about 3.6% of the total cumulative need identified by VFA.
- Given that in late summer 2017, the Council and postsecondary institutions concluded that one reasonable course of action to begin to address the overwhelming asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use needs was through sizable and sustained investment in existing postsecondary facilities, which could be accomplished through a cost-sharing arrangement involving the state, postsecondary institutions, and students and families.
- Given that the best way to ensure the ongoing commitment and participation of students and families in a cost-sharing partnership to address asset preservation and renovation needs is through the implementation of an optional dedicated student fee.
- Given that such an asset preservation fee, when implemented in the same year that the Council adopts a tuition and fee rate ceiling, would reduce the amount of additional unrestricted tuition and fee revenue available for an institution to support its E&G operation.

- ~~The Council may elect to award an exemption to its tuition and fee rate ceiling of up to \$10.⁰⁰ per credit hour at the public universities, capped at 15 credit hours per semester for undergraduate students, for a dedicated student fee that supports asset preservation and renovation projects related to the instructional mission of the institution.~~
- ~~The Council may elect to award an exemption to its tuition and fee rate ceiling of up to \$5.00 per credit hour at KCTCS institutions, capped at 15 credit hours per semester, for a dedicated student fee that supports asset preservation and renovation projects related to the instructional mission of the institution.~~

Definition

~~An asset preservation fee is a mandatory, flat-rate fee that has been approved by an institution's governing board, the revenue from which shall either be expended upon collection on asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use capital projects or used to pay debt service on agency bonds issued to finance such projects, that support the instructional mission of the institution. Thus, by definition, fee revenue and bond proceeds derived from such fees shall be restricted funds for the purposes of financing asset preservation and renovation projects. As a mandatory fee, an asset preservation fee may be assessed to students regardless of degree level or program or full-time or part-time status.~~

Eligibility Criteria

~~An asset preservation fee may qualify for an exemption from Council approved tuition and fee rate ceilings, provided the following criteria are met:~~

- ~~The proposed asset preservation project(s) and related fee shall be approved by the requesting institution's governing board.~~
- ~~Revenue from the fee may either be expended upon collection on asset preservation and renovation or fit-for-use projects, accumulated to meet a specific project's scope, or used to pay debt service on agency bonds or other instruments used to finance such projects.~~
- ~~Both the direct expenditure of fee revenue and the expenditure of agency bond funds generated by the fee may be used to meet matching requirements on state bond funds issued for asset preservation projects. In previous biennia, state leaders have required a dollar-for-dollar institutional match on state-funded asset preservation pools.~~
- ~~In any given academic year, the impact of implementing an asset preservation fee, when combined with a tuition and fee increase supporting campus operations, will be reasonable for Kentucky students and families. For the purposes of this policy exemption, the Council shall determine whether a proposed asset preservation fee, in combination with a tuition and fee increase allowed under a Council approved tuition ceiling, is reasonable. This assessment will be made within the context of state economic and budgetary conditions, institutional resource needs, and affordability concerns at the time.~~
- ~~Depending on the outcome of the aforementioned assessment, it may be appropriate to phase in a requested fee over multiple years to maintain~~

affordability and access.

- ~~The Council does not expect a fee that qualifies for an exemption under this policy to remain in effect in perpetuity. To be eligible for an exemption, the requesting institution must have a plan in place for the eventual elimination of a proposed asset preservation fee within 25 years of its initial implementation date.~~

Exemption Process

~~The Council will evaluate requests for a fee exemption under this policy on a case-by-case basis. To initiate the process:~~

- ~~An institution's governing board must approve the proposed asset preservation project(s) and related student fee.~~
- ~~Campus officials must submit to the Council a copy of that board approval, along with a written request to exempt the asset preservation fee from Council tuition and fee ceilings.~~
- ~~Council staff will review the request, assess whether or not the proposed project(s) and related fee qualify for an exemption, and make a recommendation to the Council.~~

~~To facilitate the exemption request review process, a requesting institution shall provide the Council with the following information:~~

- ~~Documents certifying that the specific asset preservation project(s) financed and proposed fee details have been approved by the institution's governing board.~~
- ~~Documents specifying the fee amount, anticipated implementation date, revenue projections, uses of revenue, number of years the fee will be in place, and impact on tuition in year imposed (i.e., percentage points above ceiling).~~
- ~~Documents identifying the project's scope, its timeframe for completion, debt payment schedule, and plan for the eventual elimination of the fee upon debt retirement.~~

Periodic Reporting

- ~~Upon request by the Council, the postsecondary institutions will provide documentation certifying the date an asset preservation fee was implemented, annual amounts of fee revenue generated to date, uses of fee revenue, the amount of fee revenue or agency bond funds used to meet state matching requirements on asset preservation project appropriations, and the number of years the fee will remain in place.~~

During the 2017-18 tuition setting process, campus officials asked if the Council would consider allowing institutions to assess a new student fee, dedicated to supporting expenditures for asset preservation and renovation projects, that would be exempted from tuition and fee caps set annually by the Council. Toward the end of calendar year 2017, staff worked with campus

presidents, chief budget officers, and Budget Development Work Group members to draft a proposed exception policy that could be presented to the Council for review and approval.

On February 2, 2018, the Council adopted an Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy that allowed each institution the option to implement a student fee for asset preservation that would not be considered by staff when assessing compliance with Council approved rate ceilings. Under the new policy, an institution could request, and the Council could approve, a new mandatory fee supporting the renovation or renewal of existing instructional facilities and neither the percent, nor the dollar increase associated with that fee would count toward a rate ceiling established by the Council.

Specifically, an Asset Preservation Fee was defined in the policy as follows:

An asset preservation fee is a mandatory, flat-rate fee that has been approved by an institution's governing board, the revenue from which shall either be expended upon collection on asset preservation and renovation and fit-for-use capital projects or used to pay debt service on agency bonds issued to finance such projects, that support the instructional mission of the institution. Thus, by definition, fee revenue and bond proceeds derived from such fees shall be restricted funds for the purposes of financing asset preservation and renovation projects.

The rationale for this exception stemmed from a desire on the part of stakeholders to address an overwhelming asset preservation and renovation need (\$7.3 billion in 2013) through sizable and sustained investment in existing postsecondary facilities and the realization that this could best be accomplished through a cost-sharing arrangement involving the state, postsecondary institutions, and students and families. The implementation of an optional student fee with revenue dedicated to supporting asset preservation projects was seen as the best way to ensure the ongoing participation of students and families in the cost-sharing approach.

Fees that qualified for an Asset Preservation Fee exemption were for a fixed, recurring amount that could not increase over time. For this reason, during the process of establishing tuition and fee ceilings, Council staff deducts these fees from total tuition and fees before applying a percent increase parameter. This keeps the fees at the same amount each year until they expire. In other words, percent increase parameters adopted by the Council are applied to current-year base rates. Base rates are defined as total tuition and fee charges, minus any Special Use Fees or Asset Preservation Fees previously approved by the Council, and minus an existing agency bond fee at KCTCS (i.e., BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness Fee).

At the time when the exception policy was established, the Council did not expect Asset Preservation Fees that qualified for an exemption under the policy to remain in effect in perpetuity. To be eligible for an exemption, a requesting institution was required to have a plan in place for the eventual elimination of the proposed fee within 25 years of its initial implementation date.

Between June 22, 2018 and April 26, 2019, the Council approved Asset Preservation Fee exception requests for four institutions. Although several institutions have asked about an Asset Preservation Fee exception since 2019, the Council changed its stance on allowing exemptions from rate ceilings. Declining enrollment at most institutions, precipitated by decreasing numbers

of high school graduates and falling college participation rates, brought about a renewed focus on affordability and increased transparency in college pricing.

For several years, it has been a common practice for the Council to count all increases in mandatory fees toward tuition and fee rate ceilings and to not allow exceptions from the price caps. For this reason, the Asset Preservation Fee Exception Policy will be terminated beginning in academic year 2025-26.

Although institutions will no longer be able to request exemptions from tuition and fee rate ceilings, periodic reporting requirements for Asset Preservation Fees will remain in effect. Upon request by the Council, institutions will provide documentation certifying the date an Asset Preservation Fee was implemented, annual amounts of fee revenue generated to date, uses of fee revenue, the amount of fee revenue or agency bond funds used to finance facilities that support the instructional mission, and the number of years the fee will remain in place.

Ongoing Usage

Once an Asset Preservation Fee is approved by the Council, revenue generated from the fee may be used for ongoing asset preservation, renovation and fit-for-use projects with institutional board approval.

Asset preservation, renovation and fit-for-use project(s) financed with asset preservation fee revenue shall comply with all statutory requirements pertaining to the approval of capital projects (KRS 45.750, KRS 45.763, KRS 164.020 (11) (a), KRS 164A.575).

TITLE: Update on 2022-24 and 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool Funding

DESCRIPTION: The Finance Committee received an update on the status of the 2022-24 and 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pools including the amount of pool funding for which capital projects have been identified and the portion of state funds that have been reimbursed to institutions.

STAFF CONTACT: Ryan Kaffenberger, Director of Finance Policy and Programs

COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Finance Committee received this information update at their January 27, 2025, meeting. It will not be presented in detail at the board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In the 2022-24 state budget (HB 1, 2022 RS), the General Assembly appropriated \$683.5 million in General Fund-supported bond funds for asset preservation projects on postsecondary education campuses. When combined with a \$16.5 million stand-alone project for KCTCS, total funding for asset preservation for the biennium was \$700.0 million.

Allocation of the funding among institutions was based on each institution's share of Education and General (Category 1 and 2) square footage. Research universities are required to match each dollar of state funding with 30 cents of institution resources, while the comprehensive universities and KCTCS are required to match each state dollar with 15 cents. Asset Preservation funds may be used to address renovation and renewal needs of Education and General facilities and state-owned and operated residential housing.

In the 2024-26 state budget (HB 6, 2024 RS), the General Assembly authorized \$563.5 million in General Fund-supported bond funds for another Postsecondary Education Asset Preservation Pool. Like the 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool, the 2024-26 funds can be used for "individual asset preservation, renovation, and maintenance projects at Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions in Education, General, and state-owned and operated residential housing facilities" (p. 199). Senate Bill 91 (24 RS) modified the budget bill language, adding that the asset preservation funds could also be used for "fixed asset pedestrian and student parking areas, and for the razing of university-owned buildings" (p. 17).

The \$563.5 million appropriated to the 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool was allocated among institutions based on each institution's share of system total Category I and II square feet, after applying base funds of \$15.0 million to each university and \$30.0 million to KCTCS. Finally, lawmakers adjusted KSU's funding up from the calculated total of \$25.7 million total to \$60.0 million. KCTCS's total was also reduced from \$142.3 million to \$71.0 million. Pool funds were allocated to institutions in both years of the biennium, with each institution receiving an appropriation for half (50%) of its allocation in 2022-23 and receiving an appropriation for the other half (50%) of its allocation in 2023-24.

Included in the enacted budget (HB 6, 2024 RS) is language, specifying campus matching requirements for accessing allocated 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool funds. These funds differ from those required for the 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool and require:

- each project for research institutions to be matched at 25 percent from funds provided by each research institution, and
- no required match for asset preservation projects at the comprehensive institutions and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

The General Assembly operationalized the matching requirement for the research institutions by requiring each to spend 25 cents for every state dollar used to complete an individual asset preservation project.

In each biennium, the General Assembly included language in the budget bill authorizing capital projects, as defined in KRS 45.750(1)(f), funded from the Asset Preservation Pools. Per KRS 164.020(11)(a), CPE is also required to "review and approve all capital construction projects covered by KRS 45.750(1)(f), including real property acquisitions, and regardless of the source of funding for projects or acquisitions." Furthermore, CPE, in collaboration with the Office of the State Budget Director, certifies that individual projects are eligible for Asset Preservation Pool funds. As such, on June 17, 2022, and June 21, 2024, the Council approved the *2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool Guidelines* and *2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool Guidelines*, respectively, which specify the criteria institutions' capital projects must meet in order to be eligible for funding from the Asset Preservation Pools. Each set of guidelines has been revised since initial approval. At each of the aforementioned meetings, the Council also delegated authority to CPE staff to review and approve capital projects submitted for Asset Preservation Pool funds to expedite the reimbursement process.

The 2022-24 and 2024-26 Guidelines require CPE staff to provide the Council with periodic updates regarding the status of Asset Preservation Pool distributions and campus matching funds by project and institution.

2022-24 ASSET PRESERVATION POOL UPDATE

In House Bill 1 of the 2022 Regular Session, the General Assembly appropriated \$683.5 million in General Fund supported bond funds for the 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool. As of quarter 2 of fiscal year 2024-25, projects have been identified and certified by CPE staff for 96.8%

(\$661.3 million) of the state funds. Furthermore, the public postsecondary institutions have received reimbursements for 48.7% (\$333.0 million) of the state funds. See Attachments A, C, and D for more information on the 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool.

2024-26 ASSET PRESERVATION POOL UPDATE

In House Bill 6 of the 2024 Regular Session, the General Assembly appropriated \$563.0 million in General Fund supported bond funds for the 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool. As of quarter 2 of fiscal year 2024-25, projects have been identified and certified by CPE staff for 37.4% (\$210.6 million) of the state funds. Because the institutions have prioritized implementing and drawing down funds for their 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool projects, they have largely not begun requesting state reimbursements for 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool projects. See Attachment B and Attachment E for more information on the 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool.

2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool

By Institution	A	B	C = B - A	D = A / B	E	F = E / B	G	H	I = H - G	J = G / H	K = A + G	L = B + H
Institution	State Funds Designated for Projects ¹	State Funds Appropriated ²	Remaining State Funds (Undesignated) ³	% of State Funds Designated for Projects	State Funds Reimbursed ⁴	% of State Funds Reimbursed	Campus Match Designated for Projects ⁵	Campus Match Appropriation ⁶	Remaining Campus Match (Undesignated) ⁷	% of Campus Match Designated for Projects	Total Funds Designated for Asset Preservation Projects	Total Asset Preservation Authority (State Funds + Campus Match)
UK	\$151,722,365	\$154,196,000	\$2,473,635	98.4%	\$44,768,358	29.0%	\$45,518,143	\$46,260,000	\$741,857	98.4%	\$197,240,508	\$200,456,000
UofL	\$81,882,879	\$81,886,000	\$3,121	100.0%	\$38,996,678	47.6%	\$24,569,121	\$24,566,000	\$0	100.0%	\$106,452,000	\$106,452,000
EKU	\$52,489,056	\$54,806,000	\$2,316,944	95.8%	\$23,783,394	43.4%	\$7,870,944	\$8,222,000	\$351,056	95.7%	\$60,360,000	\$63,028,000
KSU	\$15,616,522	\$16,078,000	\$461,478	97.1%	\$5,382,441	33.5%	\$2,342,478	\$2,412,000	\$69,522	97.1%	\$17,959,000	\$18,490,000
MoSU	\$35,222,000	\$35,222,000	\$0	100.0%	\$25,859,776	73.4%	\$5,284,000	\$5,284,000	\$0	100.0%	\$40,506,000	\$40,506,000
MuSU	\$47,044,257	\$47,176,000	\$131,743	99.7%	\$11,282,884	23.9%	\$7,209,743	\$7,078,000	\$0	101.9%	\$54,254,000	\$54,254,000
NKU	\$45,756,216	\$46,794,000	\$1,037,784	97.8%	\$21,036,705	45.0%	\$6,861,328	\$7,020,000	\$158,672	97.7%	\$52,617,543	\$53,814,000
WKU	\$54,846,200	\$68,080,000	\$13,233,800	80.6%	\$14,774,329	21.7%	\$8,224,407	\$10,212,000	\$1,987,593	80.5%	\$63,070,607	\$78,292,000
KCTCS	\$176,747,222	\$179,262,000	\$2,514,778	98.6%	\$147,085,406	82.1%	\$26,503,953	\$26,890,000	\$386,047	98.6%	\$203,251,176	\$206,152,000
Total	\$661,326,717	\$683,500,000	\$22,173,283	96.8%	\$332,969,970	48.7%	\$134,384,117	\$137,944,000	\$3,559,883	97.4%	\$795,710,834	\$821,444,000

By Sector

Sector	State Funds Designated for Projects ¹	State Funds Appropriated ²	Remaining State Funds (Undesignated) ³	% of State Funds Designated for Projects	State Funds Reimbursed ⁴	% of State Funds Reimbursed	Campus Match Designated for Projects ⁵	Campus Match Appropriation ⁶	Remaining Campus Match (Undesignated) ⁷	% of Campus Match Designated for Projects	Total Funds Designated for Asset Preservation Projects	Total Asset Preservation Authority (State Funds + Campus Match)
Research	\$233,605,244	\$236,082,000	\$2,476,756	99.0%	\$83,765,036	35.5%	\$70,087,264	\$70,826,000	\$738,736	99.0%	\$303,692,508	\$306,908,000
Comprehensive	\$250,974,250	\$268,156,000	\$17,181,750	93.6%	\$102,119,529	38.1%	\$37,792,900	\$40,228,000	\$2,435,100	93.9%	\$288,767,151	\$308,384,000
Two-Year	\$176,747,222	\$179,262,000	\$2,514,778	98.6%	\$147,085,406	82.1%	\$26,503,953	\$26,890,000	\$386,047	98.6%	\$203,251,176	\$206,152,000
Total	\$661,326,717	\$683,500,000	\$22,173,283	96.8%	\$332,969,970	48.7%	\$134,384,117	\$137,944,000	\$3,559,883	97.4%	\$795,710,834	\$821,444,000

Notes:

¹State funds assigned to certified Asset Preservation Pool projects as submitted in project identification templates.

²Value of state funds allocated by the General Assembly for the 2022-24 Postsecondary Education Asset Preservation Pool (HB1, 2022RS). Amounts reflect the total authority for the 2022-24 biennium although the appropriations are allocated with half (50%) available in each fiscal year. Excludes required campus matches of: (1) 30 cents per dollar for each research institution and (2) 15 cents per dollar for each comprehensive institution and KCTCS.

³State funds not assigned to or designated for a certified Asset Preservation Pool project as submitted in project identification templates.

⁴Total value of state funds reimbursed by OSBD for Asset Preservation Pool projects in the given biennium.

⁵Campus matching funds designated for certified Asset Preservation Pool projects as submitted in project identification templates.

⁶Value of campus matching funds authorized by the General Assembly for the 2022-24 Postsecondary Education Asset Preservation Pool (HB1, 2022RS). Amounts reflect the total authority for the 2022-24 biennium although the appropriations are allocated with half (50%) available in each fiscal year. Includes required campus matches of: (1) 30 cents per dollar for each research institution and (2) 15 cents per dollar for each comprehensive institution and KCTCS.

⁷Campus matching funds not assigned to or designated for a certified Asset Preservation Pool project as submitted in project identification templates.

2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool

By Institution	A	B	C = B - A	D = A / B	E	F = E / B	G	H	I = H - G	J = G / H	K = A + G	L = B + H
Institution	State Funds Designated for Projects ¹	State Funds Appropriated ²	Remaining State Funds (Undesignated) ³	% of State Funds Designated for Projects	State Funds Reimbursed ⁴	% of State Funds Reimbursed	Campus Match Designated for Projects ⁵	Campus Match Appropriation ⁶	Remaining Campus Match (Undesignated) ⁷	% of Campus Match Designated for Projects	Total Funds Designated for Asset Preservation Projects	Total Asset Preservation Authority (State Funds + Campus Match)
UK	\$0	\$123,450,000	\$123,450,000	0.0%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$30,862,000	\$30,862,000	0.0%	\$0	\$154,312,000
UofL	\$69,105,600	\$69,106,000	\$400	100.0%	N/A	N/A	\$17,276,400	\$17,276,000	\$0	100.0%	\$86,382,000	\$86,382,000
EKU	\$25,000,000	\$51,820,000	\$26,820,000	48.2%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$25,000,000	\$51,820,000
KSU	\$15,500,000	\$60,000,000	\$44,500,000	25.8%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$15,500,000	\$60,000,000
MoSU	\$22,000,000	\$37,670,000	\$15,670,000	58.4%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$22,000,000	\$37,670,000
MuSU	\$9,375,800	\$46,682,000	\$37,306,200	20.1%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$9,375,800	\$46,682,000
NKU	\$19,220,000	\$46,152,000	\$26,932,000	41.6%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$19,220,000	\$46,152,000
WKU	\$0	\$57,162,000	\$57,162,000	0.0%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	\$57,162,000
KCTCS	\$50,400,000	\$71,000,000	\$20,600,000	71.0%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$50,400,000	\$71,000,000
Total	\$210,601,400	\$563,042,000	\$352,440,600	37.4%	N/A	N/A	\$17,276,400	\$48,138,000	\$30,861,600	35.9%	\$227,877,800	\$611,180,000

By Sector

Sector	State Funds Designated for Projects ¹	State Funds Appropriated ²	Remaining State Funds (Undesignated) ³	% of State Funds Designated for Projects	State Funds Reimbursed ⁴	% of State Funds Reimbursed	Campus Match Designated for Projects ⁵	Campus Match Appropriation ⁶	Remaining Campus Match (Undesignated) ⁷	% of Campus Match Designated for Projects	Total Funds Designated for Asset Preservation Projects	Total Asset Preservation Authority (State Funds + Campus Match)
Research	\$69,105,600	\$192,556,000	\$123,450,400	35.9%	N/A	N/A	\$17,276,400	\$48,138,000	\$30,861,600	35.9%	\$86,382,000	\$240,694,000
Comprehensive	\$91,095,800	\$299,486,000	\$208,390,200	30.4%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$91,095,800	\$299,486,000
Two-Year	\$50,400,000	\$71,000,000	\$20,600,000	71.0%	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$50,400,000	\$71,000,000
Total	\$210,601,400	\$563,042,000	\$352,440,600	37.4%	\$0	0.0%	\$17,276,400	\$48,138,000	\$30,861,600	35.9%	\$227,877,800	\$611,180,000

Notes:

¹State funds assigned to certified Asset Preservation Pool projects as submitted in project identification templates.

²Value of state funds allocated by the General Assembly for the 2024-26 Postsecondary Education Asset Preservation Pool (HB6, 2024RS). Amounts reflect the total authority for the 2024-26 biennium although the appropriations are allocated with half (50%) available in each fiscal year. Excludes a required campus match of 25 cents per dollar for each research institution. No campus match is required for the comprehensive institutions and KCTCS.

³State funds not assigned to or designated for a certified Asset Preservation Pool project as submitted in project identification templates.

⁴Total value of state funds reimbursed by OSBD for Asset Preservation Pool projects in the given biennium.

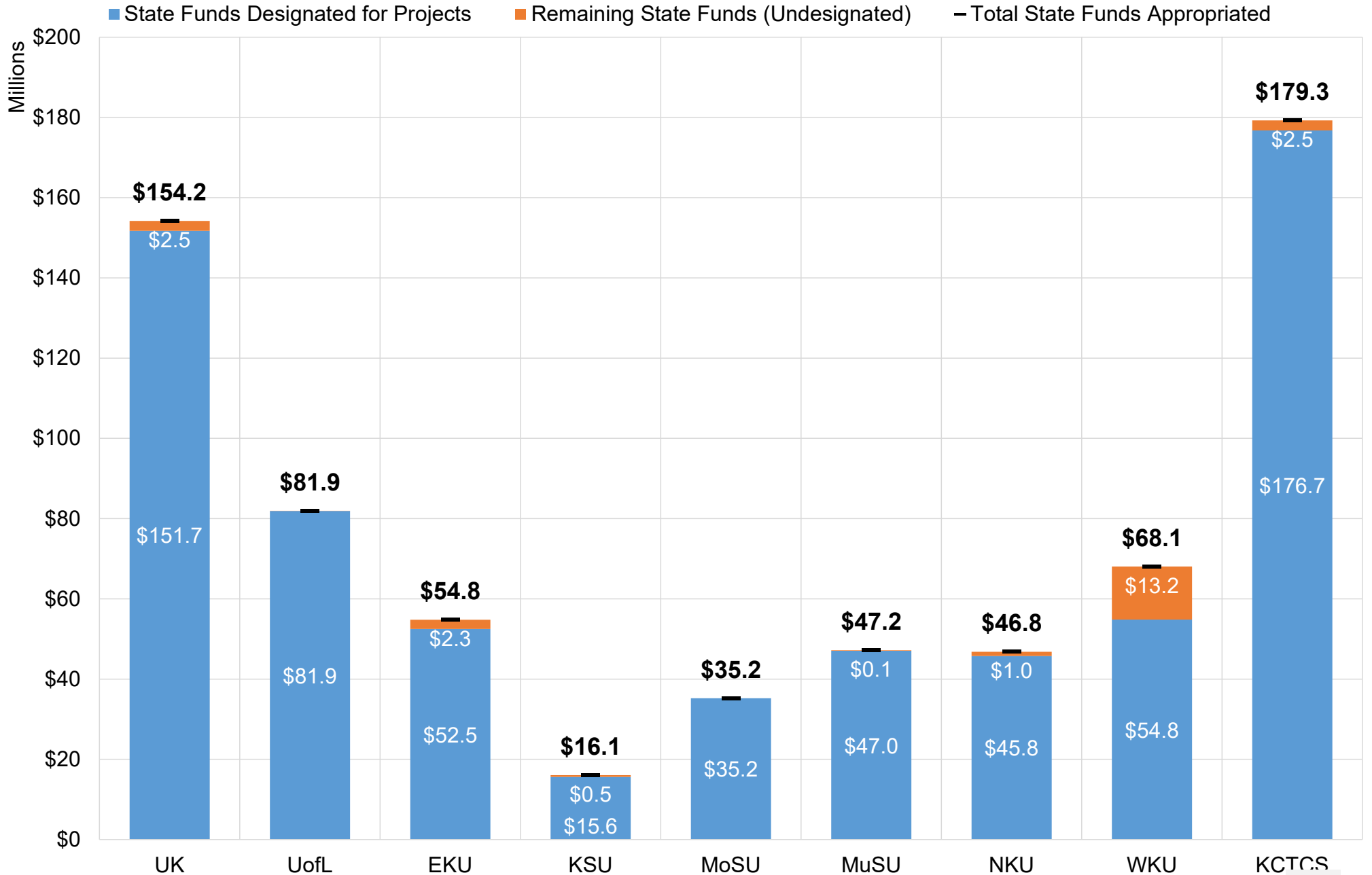
⁵Campus matching funds designated for certified Asset Preservation Pool projects as submitted in project identification templates.

⁶Value of campus matching funds authorized by the General Assembly for the 2024-26 Postsecondary Education Asset Preservation Pool (HB6, 2024RS). Amounts reflect the total authority for the 2024-26 biennium although the appropriations are allocated with half (50%) available in each fiscal year. Includes a required campus match of 25 cents per dollar for each research institution. No campus match is required for the comprehensive institutions and KCTCS.

⁷Campus matching funds not assigned to or designated for a certified Asset Preservation Pool project as submitted in project identification templates.

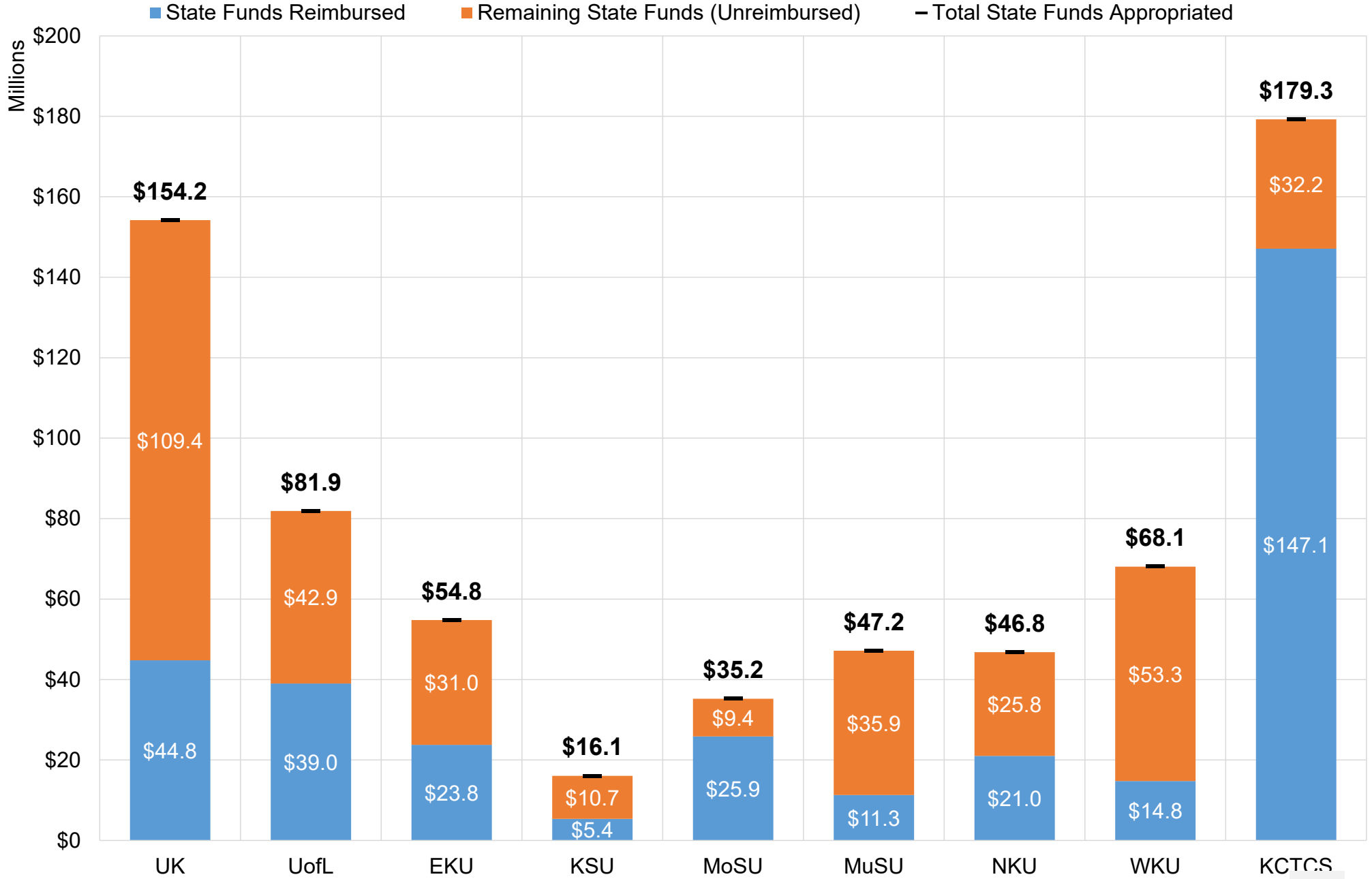
Portion of State Funds Designated for Projects

2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool
FY 2024-25 Q2



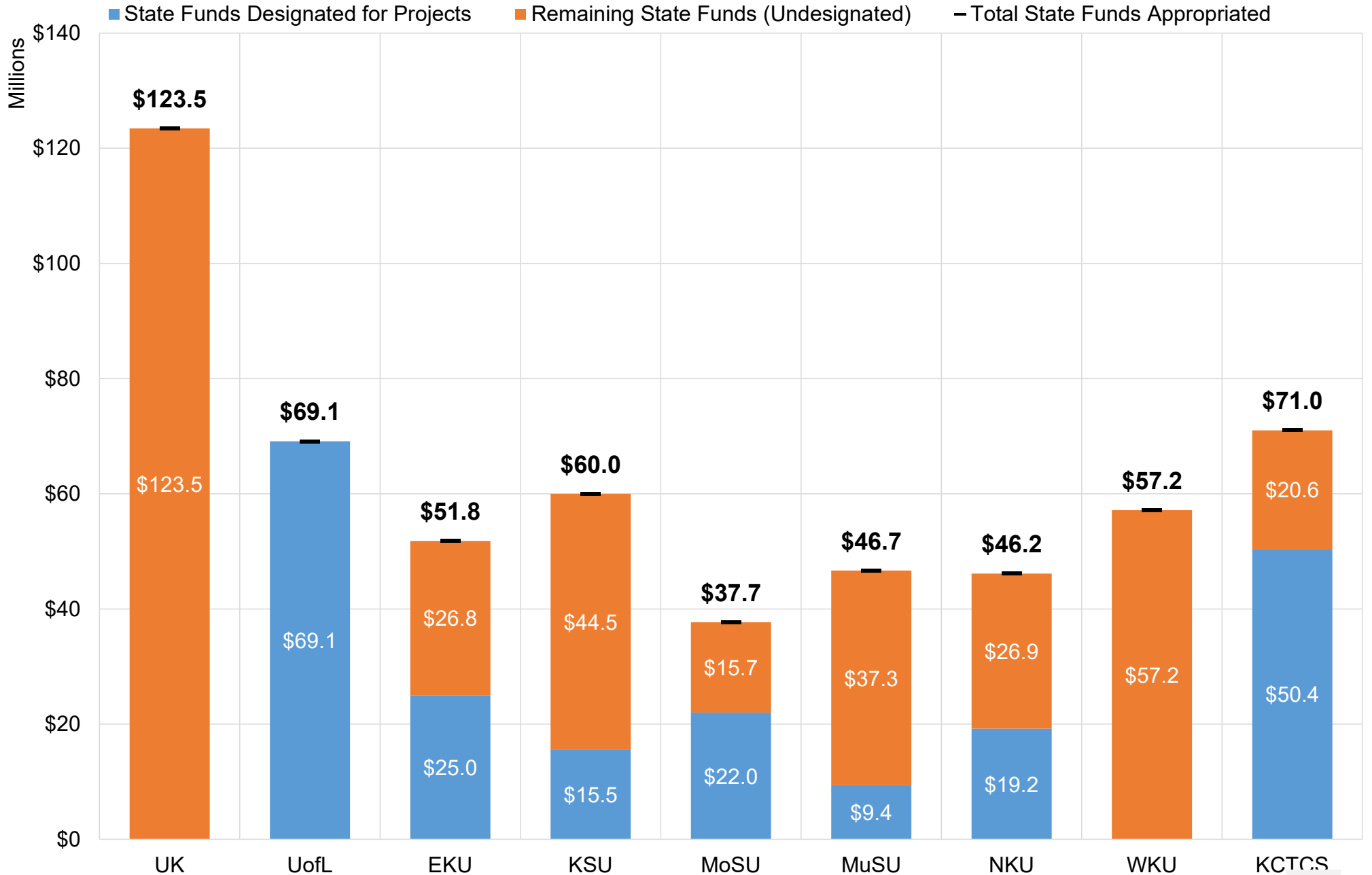
Portion of State Funds Reimbursed

2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool
FY 2024-25 Q2



Portion of State Funds Designated for Projects

2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool
FY 2024-25 Q2



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Agency Budget Update

FY2025 – Second Quarter (July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024)

GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS

Overview

General funds are used to provide essential services and resources that support the board, president, and agency in carrying out CPE’s statutory duties and strategic agenda priorities. Units and initiatives funded through general funds are:

- **The Office of the President**, which is the state’s primary advocate for public postsecondary education and advises the Governor and General Assembly on higher education matters;
- **CPE Board** whose responsibilities are set out in KRS 164.013. The CPE Board and its standing and advisory committees meet regularly throughout the year to review staff recommendations and approve major decisions of the Council;
- **Academic Excellence**, which oversees matters relating to the quality of degree programs and instruction;
- **Finance**, which oversees college affordability and deals with postsecondary budgetary matters;
- **Policy, Planning, Communications, Data and Research**, which develops and implements the strategic agenda and associated accountability system; collects, analyzes, and warehouses student data; and coordinates communications and events;
- **Workforce and Economic Development**, which aligns degree offerings with workforce needs and addresses critical shortages in the high-need occupational areas; and
- **Agency Operations**, which houses the office of general counsel and government relations, human resources, administrative services, and other functions supporting agency staff.

HB6 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates funds to be used for strategic initiative efforts. These funds are used to support:

- **Student Access and Success**, which promotes smoother transitions to and through postsecondary education through policy, programs, and enhanced student support services;
- Graduate Profile grants to institutions and the Faculty Leadership Academy

HB6 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriated general funds for CPE oversight of Kentucky State University and to conduct a Postbaccalaureate Study.

Financial Overview

Program	FY2025 Budget	Expenditures As of Report Period	Balance As of Report Period
Operations Base	\$6,318,500	\$2,726,255	\$3,592,245
Postbaccalaureate Study	2,000,000	573,051	1,426,949
Operations Strategic Initiatives	1,457,400	529,260	928,140
Operations - SREB Dues	224,800	0	224,800
Kentucky State University Oversight	750,000	223,147	526,853
TOTAL GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$10,750,700	\$4,051,714	\$6,698,986

TECHNOLOGY TRUST FUND

Overview

KRS 164.7911 creates the Technology Initiative Trust Fund, and KRS 164.7921 clarifies that the fund supports ongoing technology investments and upgrades for CPE and postsecondary institutions. KRS 164.800 encourages shared program delivery among libraries, institutions, systems, agencies, and programs. These joint technology purchases and digital subscriptions result in considerable cost savings for the Commonwealth.

- The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Network (KPEN) provides internet access to public postsecondary campuses and other digital initiatives.
- Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) is a consortium of over 300 Kentucky libraries and institutions, including colleges and universities, public libraries, K12 schools, hospitals, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA), and more.

Program funding comes from the General Fund and fees from Kentucky postsecondary institutions.

Financial Overview

KPEN and Technology Support	FY2025 Budget	Expenditures As of Report Period
REVENUE		
Prior Year Carry Forward	\$1,468,823	\$1,468,823
General Fund	2,105,800	1,684,500
Member Fees	550,000	232,905
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,124,623	\$3,386,228
EXPENDITURES		
Personnel	\$600,000	\$334,392
Operating	2,962,423	1,257,804
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,562,423	\$1,592,196
FUND BALANCE	\$562,200	\$1,794,032

Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL)	FY2025 Budget	Expenditures As of Report Period
REVENUE		
Prior Year Carry Forward	\$1,089,427	\$1,089,427
General Fund	1,547,400	1,229,700
Member Fees	3,150,000	2,565,848
TOTAL REVENUES	\$5,786,827	\$4,884,975
EXPENDITURES		
Personnel	\$410,311	\$203,575
Operating	3,991,554	3,644,402
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,401,865	\$3,847,978
FUND BALANCE	\$1,384,962	\$1,036,997

RESTRICTED and TRUST FUND PROGRAMS

Overview

Equine Trust Fund

Pursuant to KRS 138.510(5), the Equine Trust Fund directs one percent of all money wagered on live and historical races at the track to be deposited into a trust for the construction, expansion, or renovation of facilities or the purchase of equipment for equine programs at state universities. CPE serves as the administrative agent of these funds and develops procedures for administering the program and making disbursements in accordance with established guidelines.

Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF)

In 2023, the General Assembly passed HB 200, establishing an innovative fund whereby employers pledge a dollar amount to a postsecondary healthcare program held in trust to be matched by general fund state dollars. Over half of the funds are dedicated to scholarships for students pursuing high-demand healthcare credentials; the remaining dollars recognize program excellence and support administration of the fund at CPE. Funds carry forward until expensed until the program sunsets in 2030.

Kentucky Regional Optical Network Infrastructure

HB1 of the 2022 regular session appropriated capital funds for networking equipment to support the integration of Internet2 applications into the Kentucky Wired Fiber Optic Network's teaching and learning environment. The project funded the purchase of routing hardware and firewalls to support the Kentucky Regional Optical Network and Kentucky Postsecondary Network that is migrating to Kentucky Wired. The networking equipment serves all public postsecondary education institutions.

Licensure

As set forth in KRS 164.945-47, CPE is required to license all non-public, postsecondary institutions that operate in Kentucky offering bachelor's degrees or higher, including out-of-state institutions offering programs through distance education. The licensure unit also manages Kentucky's participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), which sets standards for interstate offerings of postsecondary distance education. The fund is funded through licensure fees. Funds carry forward until expensed.

Research Challenge and Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund "Bucks for Brains"

- The Research Challenge Trust Fund provides funding to the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to recruit world-class research faculty through an endowment match program. It also supports scientific research leading to new discoveries and innovations for the good of the state (KRS 164.7917). Funds carry forward until expensed.
- The Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (KRS 164.7919) are awarded to Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University to support their designated Programs of Distinction (PODs). Funds carry forward until expensed.

Program	FY2025 Available Funds	Expenditures As of Report Period	Balance As of Report Period
Equine Trust Fund	\$751,991	\$0	\$751,991
Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund	13,720,000	0	13,720,000
Ky Regional Optical Network Infrastructure	600,000	101,677	498,323
Licensure	500,000	225,742	274,258
Research Challenge Trust Fund	13,373,487	1,000,000	12,373,487
Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund	8,650,000	2,411,301	6,238,699
TOTAL Restricted and Trust Funds	\$37,595,477	\$3,738,720	\$33,856,757

GRANTS

Overview

Grant funds are used to support non-general fund services and resources to further efforts in carrying out CPE’s statutory duties and strategic agenda priorities. Most grant funds are awarded for periods that do not coincide with the state fiscal year, the below chart shows expenditures as of fiscal year report period.

Responsible Unit	Grant Name	Source	*Available Funds Annualized	Expenditures As of Report Period
Academic Excellence	SHEEO	SHEEO	\$10,000	\$0
Licensure	NC SARA	NC Sara	6,918	595
Performance and Planning	Innovative Scholarship Fund	KHEAA	125,000	0
Student Access and Success	ARPA/ESSER - KAA	Federal - KDE	367,564	367,564
Student Access and Success	GEARUP	GEARUP	3,500,000	1,934,965
Student Access and Success	Save The Children	Save The Children	297,097	4,971
Student Access and Success	LAUNCH Grant	New Venture Fund	91,540	8,544
Student Access and Success	Commonwealth Education Continuum	NASH	13,333	0
Student Access and Success	Futuriti	NASH	13,333	0
Student Access and Success	P-20 Dual Credit	NASH	13,333	0
Student Access and Success	Preschool Development	Office of Early Childhood	200,000	28,928
Student Access and Success	Scaling Student Basic Needs	ECMC	459,100	71,802
Student Access and Success	Refugee Resettlement Initiative	NASH	1,500	0
Student Access and Success	Catalyst Fund - Transfer	NASH	7,400	0
Student Access and Success	Admissions Redesign	Lumina	100,000	13,934
Student Access and Success	Kentucky Student Success Center	James Graham Brown	994,863	265,437
Student Access and Success	Adult Learner	Kentucky Office of Adult Education	575,000	0
Student Access and Success	Transfer - NIC	NASH	10,725	0
Workforce and Economic Development	Healthcare Workforce	Federal - State Fiscal Recovery Funds	4,481,065	1,130,729
Workforce and Economic Development	Career Ladders in Mental and Behavioral Health (CLIMB)	Cabinet for Health and Family Services	700,000	240,473
Workforce and Economic Development	Nuclear Medicine	KY Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy	100,000	0
Agency Operations	Indirect Revenue from Grants		600,000	87,135
TOTAL Grant Expenditures			\$12,667,771	\$4,155,077

* Annualized Available Funds may not include available carry forward balances; grant awards often span multiple state fiscal years

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Overview

Fiduciary (or pass-through) funds are appropriated by the General Assembly to CPE and held for the benefit of individuals or units outside of the agency. CPE is the trustee or fiduciary responsible for these assets, which can be used only for trust beneficiaries. CPE ensures assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes.

Financial Overview

Program	FY2025 Budget	Expenditures As of Report Period	Balance As of Report Period
App Reg Healthcare - Psychiatric Residency	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000
Cancer Research Matching Program	3,807,400	1,224,271	2,583,129
Cancer Research - Tobacco Settlement Funds	5,843,200	0	5,843,200
National Stem Cell Foundation	300,000	300,000	0
Ovarian Cancer Screening	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
SREB Doctorial Scholars Program	50,000	0	50,000
Simmons College	3,239,565	395,919	2,843,646
TOTAL FIDICARY FUNDS	\$24,240,165	\$3,920,190	\$20,319,975

Program Descriptions

- Appalachian Regional Healthcare – Psychiatric Residency:** HB1 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates funding to be distributed to Appalachian Regional Healthcare to establish a psychiatric residency program to serve Kentucky.
- Cancer Research Matching Funds:** KRS 164.043 creates the cancer research institutions' matching fund. For tax periods beginning on or after June 1, 2005, the one cent (\$.01) surtax collected under KRS 138.140(1)(c) shall be deposited into the fund. One-half of the monies is distributed to the University of Kentucky and one-half to the University of Louisville. The two universities must provide a dollar-for-dollar match to receive funds.
- Cancer Research:** HB6 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates Tobacco Settlement Funds to be used for cancer research and screening to be shared equally between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.
- National Stem Cell Foundation:** SB91 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates funding to be distributed to the National Stem Cell Foundation to support grant match.
- Ovarian Cancer Screening:** HB6 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates funding to the ovarian cancer screening outreach program at the University of Kentucky.

- **Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research:** HB6 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates funding to support spinal cord and head injury research. In accordance with KRS 211.500, KRS 211.502, KRS 211.504, the appropriation in each fiscal year shall be shared between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.
- **SREB Doctoral Scholars:** HB6 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates funding for annual dues to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).
- **Simmons College:** HB 1 of the 2022 Regular Session appropriates funds for the Teacher Education Initiative at Simmons College. The funds shall also be used to expand academic offerings in psychology to produce more licensed mental health practitioners, quality control technology workers, and logistics and supply chain managers. Additionally, HB 1 of the 2024 Regular Session appropriates dollars from the State Fiscal Recovery Funds to support infrastructure planning and facility acquisition for student residential housing, an onsite tutoring/study facility, and the development and design of capital improvements to support academic program expansion.

Selected Returns on Investments in Higher Education in Kentucky

January 30, 2025

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Michael W. Clark, michael.clark@uky.edu

About this Research

- This research was funded by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)
- The analysis was conducted by staff at the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), University of Kentucky
- CPE staff assisted with the project by providing subject matter expertise about and data on:
 - The 2015 Kentucky high school graduating class
 - college going, degrees, time to degree
 - The state's investment in this cohort
 - General Fund appropriations, financial aid (KEES, CAP)

Kentucky's Return on Investment: Topline Points

- Kentucky's investments in higher education are significant
 - Around 10% of General Fund expenditures in 2023
- The returns on these investment are even more significant
 - Tax revenue is about four-and-a-half times greater than the initial investment
 - Local economic impact is nearly seventeen times greater
- Additional (financial) benefits **not** included in our estimated returns
 - Better health outcomes
 - Enhanced labor productivity and participation
 - Lower utilization of government social services
 - Higher civic and community engagement
 - Reduced crime (and punishment)

Transcendent Importance of Education

- The academic literature is replete with studies showing the benefits of education on earnings, economic productivity, and employment
 - Not only is higher education empirically associated—it is causally linked
- Higher education is associated with other benefits, like better health
 - The monetary value of better health is estimated to be as much as half of the return to education on earnings (Cutler and Lleras-Muney, 2006)
- The benefits of education, higher education, are broad and deep
 - Some benefits are relatively easy to quantify (e.g., wages), while others resist easy quantification, but are no less valuable (e.g., voting)

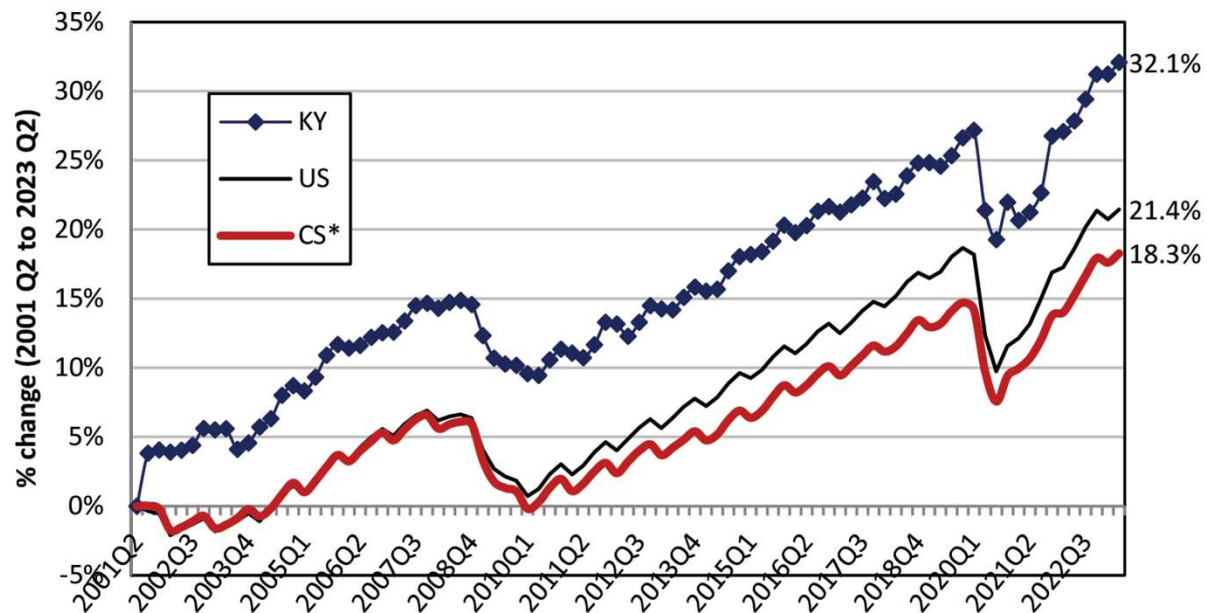
The Importance of Education in the Economy

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that nearly 67 percent of the new occupational positions created nationally from 2023 to 2033, and about 41 percent of the total jobs in 2033, will require at least some postsecondary education.
- The percentage of jobs requiring some education, training, or credentials beyond high school has increased over time.
 - The percentage of prime working-age adults (25 to 54 years old) in Kentucky's workforce with at least two years of post-secondary education increased from 10 percent in 1960 to 40 percent in 2022.
 - The BLS occupational projections suggest a continuation of this trend.

Rising Presence of an Educated Workforce

Figure 1: Employment with Postsecondary Education, Kentucky, Competitor States* & the U.S.

(Some College & Associates Degree, Bachelor's Degree & Higher)



Source: Estimated by the author using U.S. Census, LED Extraction Tool, Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI), <<https://ledextract.ces.census.gov/qwi/all>>, data downloaded 7/11/2024.

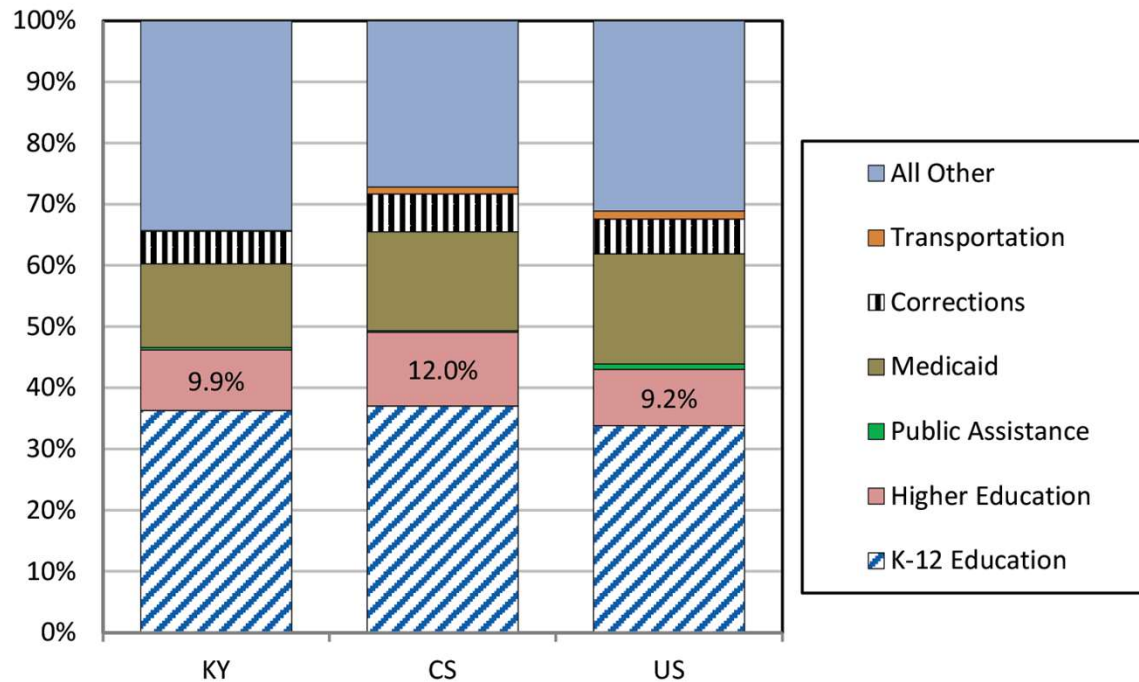
Note: CS* denotes a modified collection of competitor states that excludes Mississippi, due to several quarters of missing workforce data.

Investments in Education

- Given its importance, it is easy to understand why states invest so much in education
- Four words describe the arc of Kentucky's higher education investments over the last four and half decades
 - Substantial
 - \$1.5 billion in FY2023, third largest General Fund category (Source: SHEF, SHEEO)
 - Similar
 - U.S. and 12 competitor states
 - Surging
 - Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997
 - Subsiding
 - Great Recession (2007-2009)

State General Fund Expenditures

Figure 3: State General Fund Expenditures, Kentucky, Competitor States, and U.S., Fiscal Year 2023
(percent of total state general fund expenditures)

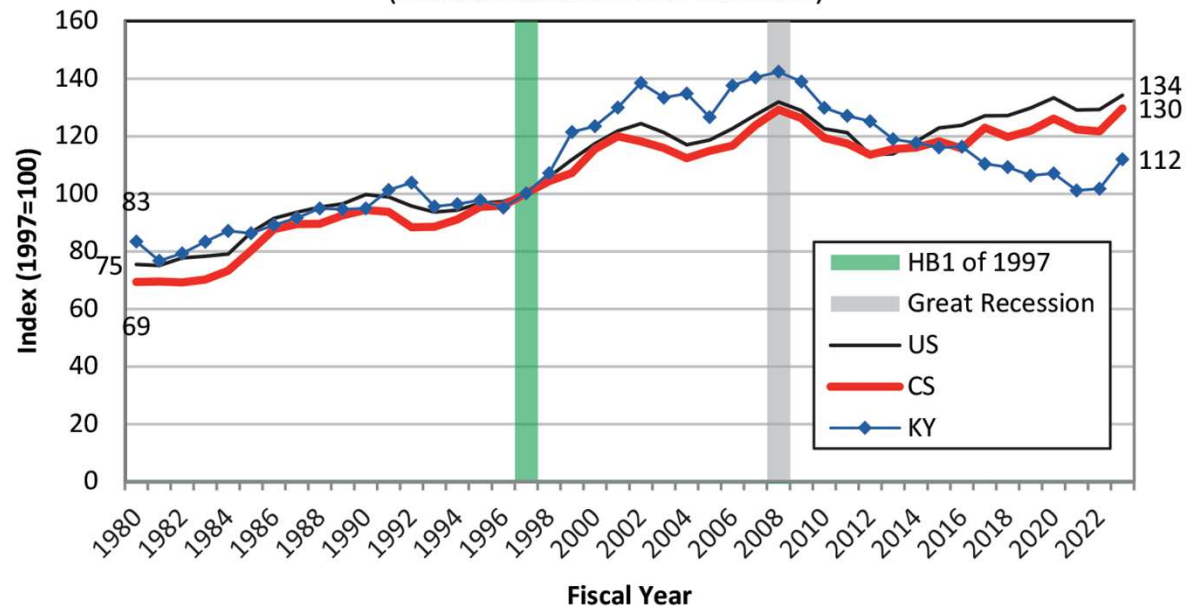


Source: 2023 State Expenditure Report, National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO).

Index of Higher Education Total Support

Figure 4: Higher Education Total Support, Kentucky, Competitor States, and the U.S., 1980-2023

(federal stimulus funds excluded)



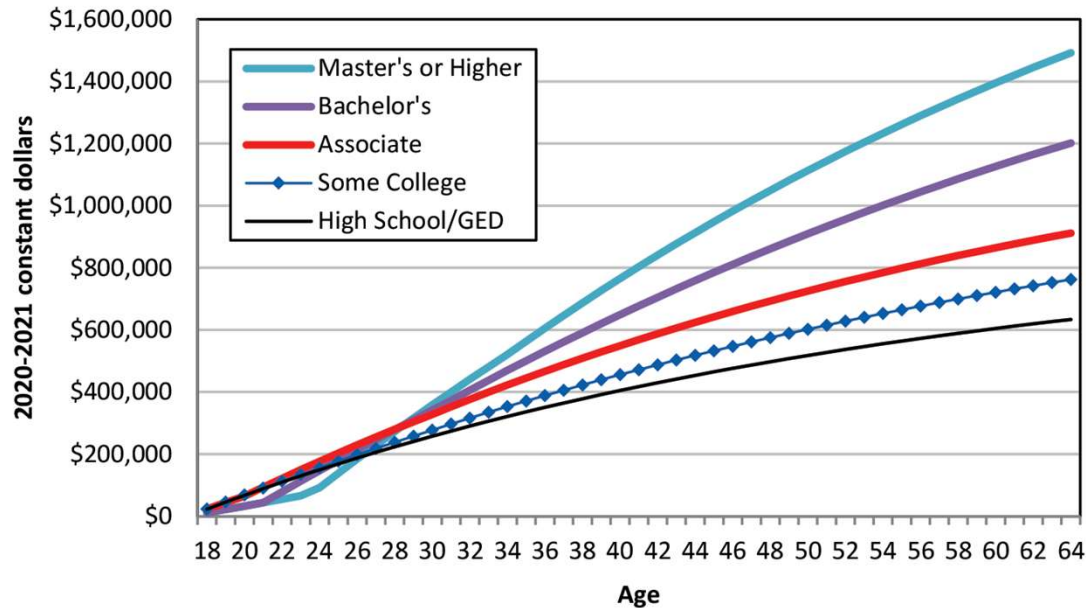
Source: Author's analysis of data from State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. (2024). State Higher Education Finance: FY 2023. Boulder, CO. We convert current dollars to constant 2023 dollars and then index the 2023 constant dollars to 1997. Kentucky's index value of 112 in 2023 indicates that this value is about 12 percent higher, in real terms, compared to 1997. Likewise, in 1980 it was only 83 percent of the 1997 value.

Education and Earnings

- We use statistical methods designed to isolate the impact of education on earnings from the many other known factors such as age, sex, and location of residence, which affect earnings too.
- We estimate that a typical college graduate in Kentucky will have lifetime earnings (from 18 to 64) nearly double that of a high school graduate, a wage premium that is 1.9 times higher.
 - The ratios for associate degree holders (1.4) and graduate degree holders (2.4) are also significant.
- Higher earnings lead to more tax revenue and increased consumer spending in a local economy

More Education, Higher Earnings by Age

Figure 9: Estimated Cumulative Lifetime Earnings, Kentucky, Age 18 to 64, by Age & Education
(net earnings after higher education costs)



Source: Model-based estimates calculated by the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, using U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2021 and 2022 1-Year estimates, PUMS, using a 3 percent discount rate.

Estimating the ROI for Kentucky’s 2015 Cohort of High School Graduates

Table 3: High School Class of 2015 Study Cohort*

(millions \$s)

Credential Level	Total Net General Fund Investment ¹	Total CAP & KEES Investment	Median Time-to-Degree	Student Cohort Size	Total State Investment
Some College ²	\$168.8	\$34.6	2	12,938	\$203.4
Certificate/Diploma	\$11.7	\$2.9	1.5	1,185	\$14.6
Associate	\$44.7	\$13.1	3	2,307	\$57.8
Bachelor's	\$180.2	\$64.6	4	7,043	\$244.8
Graduate	\$39.0	\$9.3	6.5	954	\$48.3
Total	\$444.4	\$124.5	-	24,427	\$568.9

* This cohort is restricted to students within KPEDS attending a public postsecondary institution with a Kentucky high school documented. Students are included from the years 2015 to the 2022-2023 academic year.

¹The total net general fund investment is calculated from the tables in Appendix B, which are presented in nominal dollars, but we convert them to 2020-2021 constant dollars. Net General Fund appropriations are defined as total General Fund appropriations minus debt service and any appropriations to support the UofL Hospital Contract.

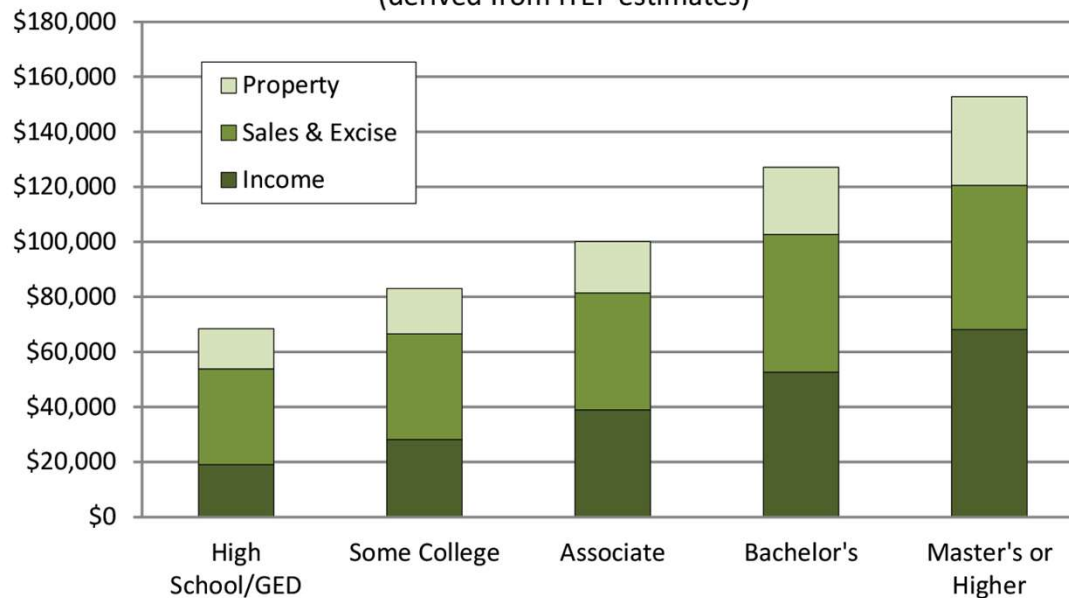
²The two categories of “some college” and “certificate/diploma” are combined into a single group for our ROI analysis, which we refer to as “some college/certificate.”

Note: The figures here are calculated using the three tables in Appendix B.

Sources: Appropriations data, Council on Postsecondary Education, Budget and Finance Unit; FTE Student Enrollment Data, Council on Postsecondary Education, Data and Advanced Analytics Unit.

Higher Earnings Leads to Higher Tax Revenue

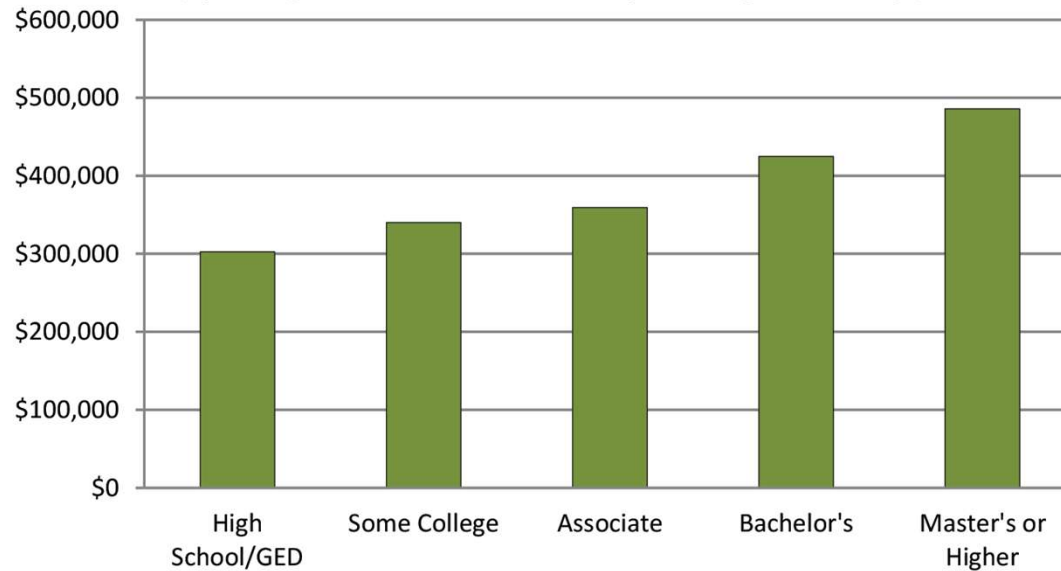
Figure 10: Estimated Cumulative Taxes Paid, Kentucky, Age 18 to 64, by Educational Attainment
(derived from ITEP estimates)



Source: Estimates calculated by the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, using U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2021 and 2022 1-Year estimates, PUMS; Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), *Who Pays?* 7th Edition

Higher Earnings Leads to More Consumer Spending

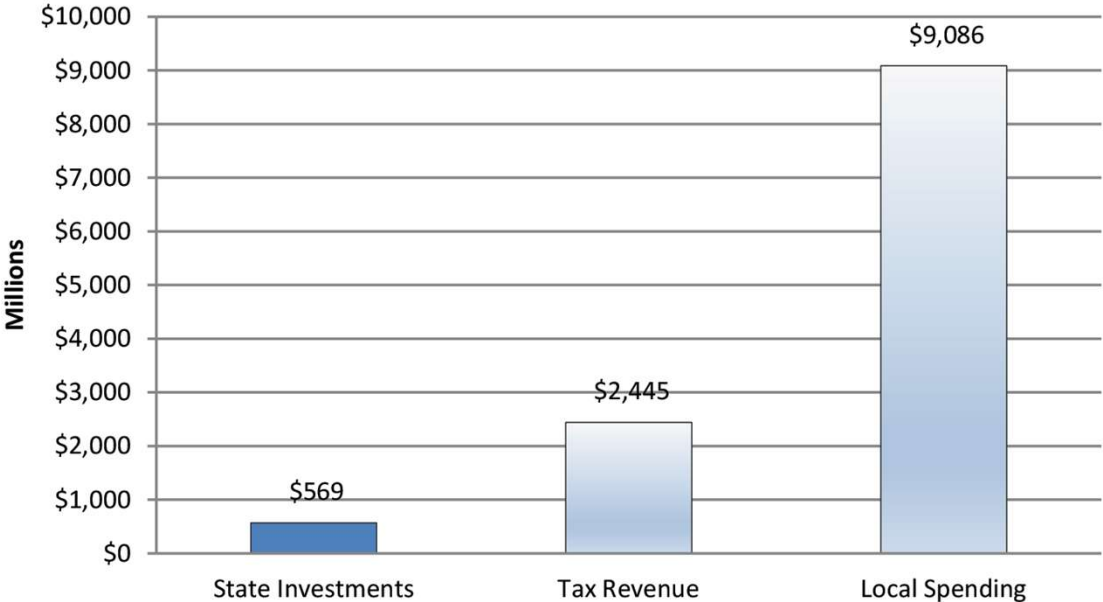
Figure 11: Estimated Cumulative Lifetime Local Spending, Kentucky, Age 18 to 64, by Educational Attainment
(spending estimates calculated as a percentage of earnings)



Source: Estimates calculated by the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023 Consumer Expenditure Survey data.

Selected Returns Associated with the 2015 Cohort

Figure 18: Selected Higher Education Investments and Selected Returns Associated with the Class of 2015



Source: Estimates calculated by the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, using a 3 percent discount rate for present value.

Other Benefits of Education

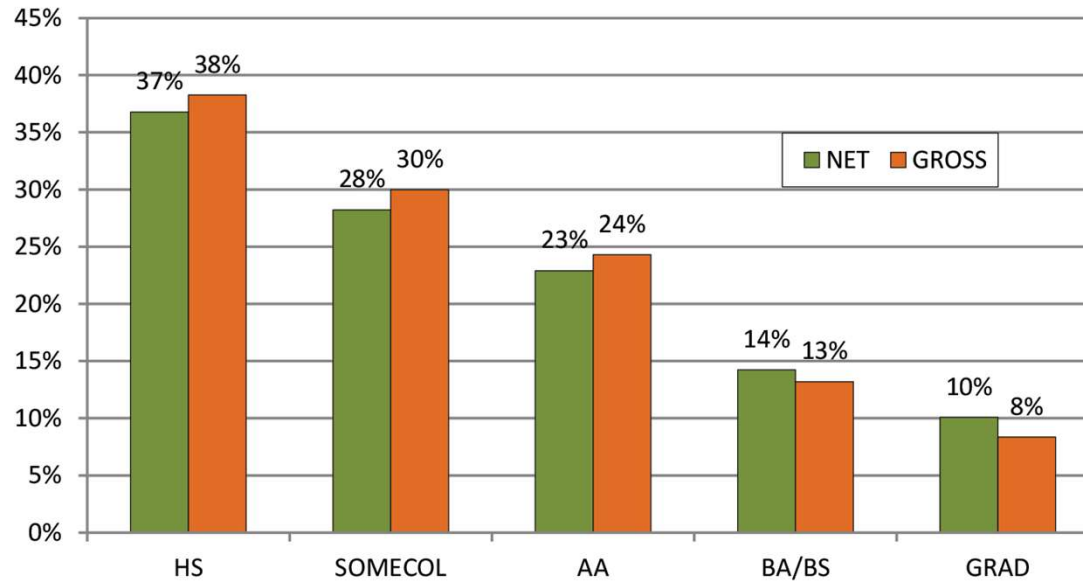
- The benefits of higher education extend beyond higher incomes and include many other positive aspects, some of which with sizable financial implications.
- We estimate the “net” and “gross” percentages by educational attainment levels for six potential benefits
 - Labor force participation
 - Chronic disease risk behaviors
 - Public assistance utilization
 - Teleworking
 - Volunteerism
 - Voting

What are “net” and “gross” percentages?

- **Gross** percentages represent everyone in a single education category
 - Every income group, a mix of males and females, many ages, urban and rural residents, and all races and ethnicities
 - But the one shared characteristic is everyone has the same educational attainment (e.g., high school diploma)
- **Net** percentages are estimates of how individuals differ along a single dimension (i.e., educational attainment) while holding other factors constant (e.g., sex, income, age, race, ethnicity, urbanity)
 - How does an individual’s probability of using public assistance differ by education level while holding other important factors constant?

More Education, Reduced Public Assistance Utilization

**Figure 14: Public Assistance
by Educational Attainment, 2021-2022**
(Kentucky estimates, 18 to 64 years old)



Source: Estimated by CBER using data courtesy of Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Daniel Backman, Annie Chen, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, Renae Rodgers, and Megan Schouweiler. IPUMS USA: Version 15.0 [ACS 2021 & 2022]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V15.0>

Conclusions

- This study does not attempt to provide a *comprehensive* accounting of the returns to the state resulting from educational investments.
- We do not include the economic benefits or government savings from better health, lower public assistance usage, or reduced crime.
- We have not monetized any number of other positive social benefits, like more volunteerism, higher civic engagement, or telework.
- Instead, our conservative estimates suggest a lower-bound floor on the returns for the state's investments in postsecondary education.
- These returns, even though modest in scope, far exceed the initial state investments.



<http://cber.uky.edu/>

TITLE: 2023-24 Kentucky Degrees and Credentials

DESCRIPTION: Staff will provide degree and credential data for the 2023-24 academic year.

STAFF CONTACTS: Chris Ledford, Director, Data and Advanced Analytics
Madalyn White, Senior Associate, Data and Advanced Analytics

DATA SUMMARY

Staff will update the Council on degree and credential data during the meeting, which show that total credential production has grown steadily over the last five years, with the most pronounced increases at KCTCS and AIKCU institutions, as well as in graduate degrees across both four-year sectors. Although public baccalaureate degrees have been stagnant, a rebound is expected due to current growth in dual credit, first-time and continuing student enrollment.

Also highlighted in the report are trends around degrees/credentials awarded to students in targeted subgroups, such as adult and low-income students. Sustained progress in growing awards among these groups are critical to Kentucky reaching its 60x30 goal; recent enrollment growth among these groups suggests the goal is within reach.



2023-24 Degrees Update

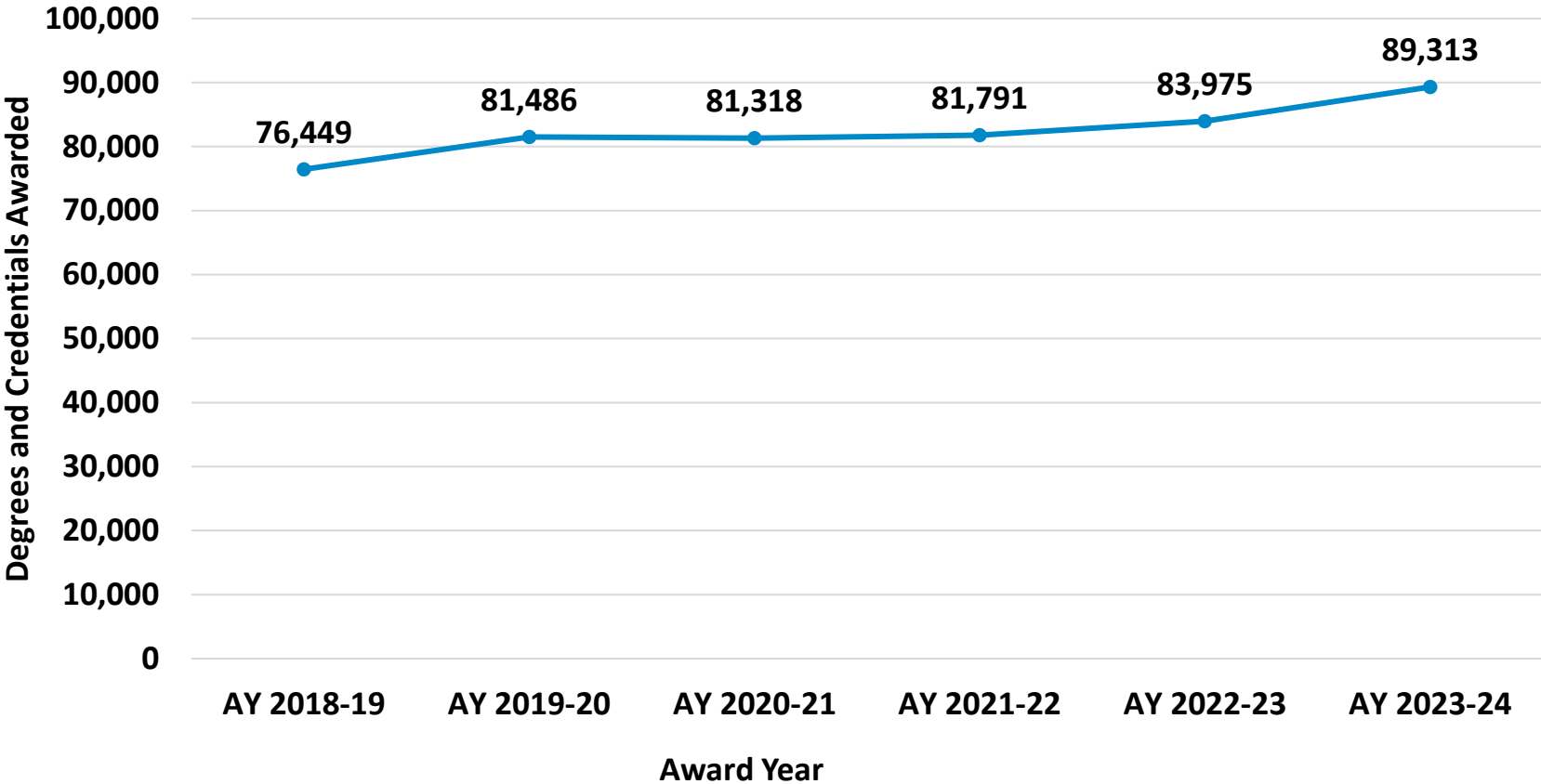
2023-24 Degree & Credential Highlights

- Total credential production has grown steadily since AY 2018-19, with the most pronounced increases observed in credential production at KCTCS and AIKCU institutions, and graduate degrees overall.
 - We are optimistic that public baccalaureate degrees will rebound as traditional/non-traditional first-time enrollment is growing, along with dual credit enrollment.
 - Four-year publics had steeper setbacks in among key enrollment groups during the pandemic.
- Enrollment trends, along with growing retention and completion rates, suggest that credential production should continue to grow. Ongoing efforts to support low-income and adult students to completion will be crucial in pushing Kentucky to its 60x30 Goal.

All Degrees and Credentials 2018-19 to 2023-24

All Public and AIKCU Degrees and Credentials

Total Degrees and Credentials



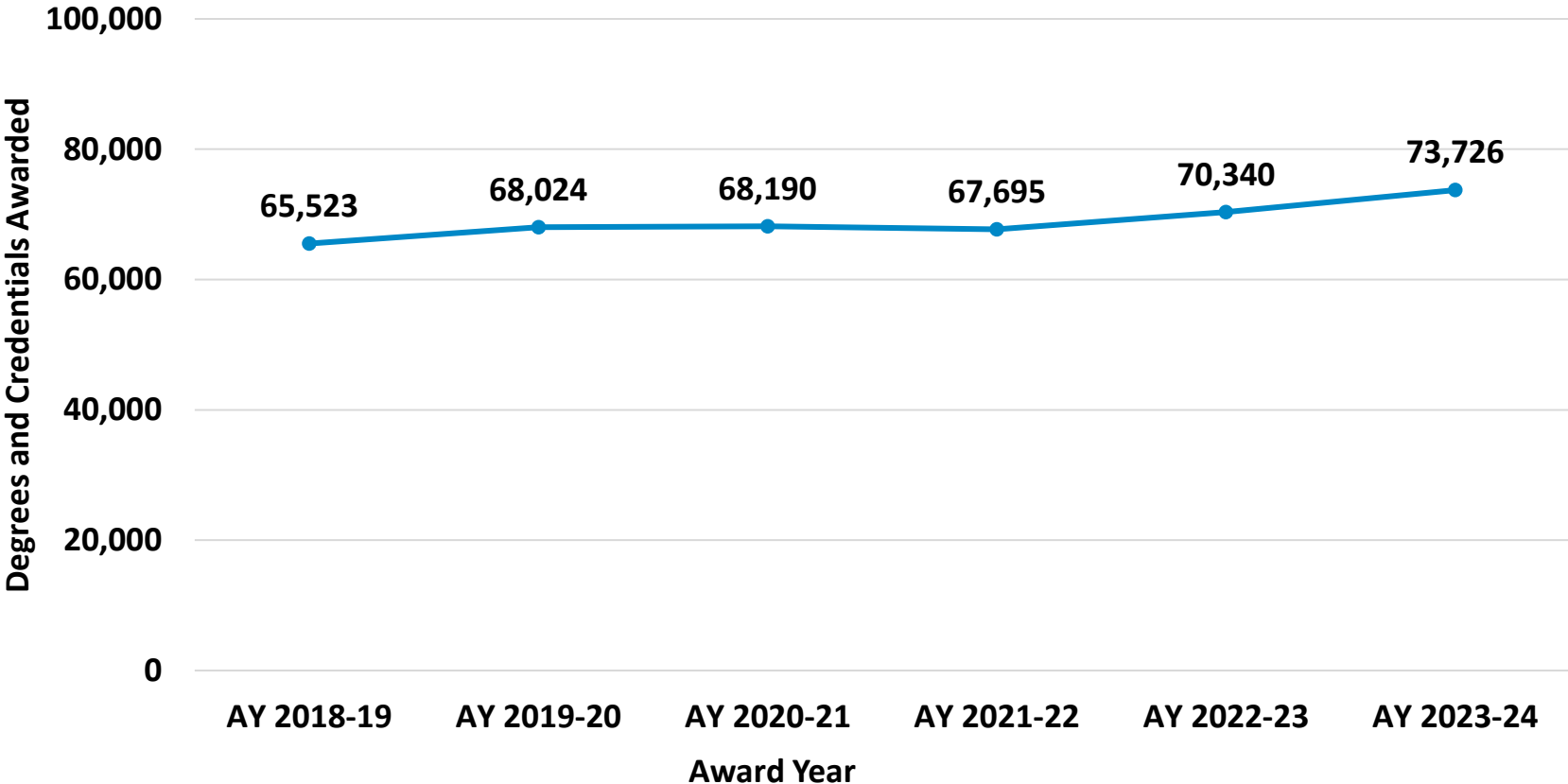
Degree Trends Over Time.

Degree and credential awards have grown steadily over the last five academic years.

- **+6.4%** since AY 22-23.
- **+16.8%** since AY 18-19.

All Public Institution Degrees and Credentials

Total Degrees and Credentials



Degree Trends Over Time.

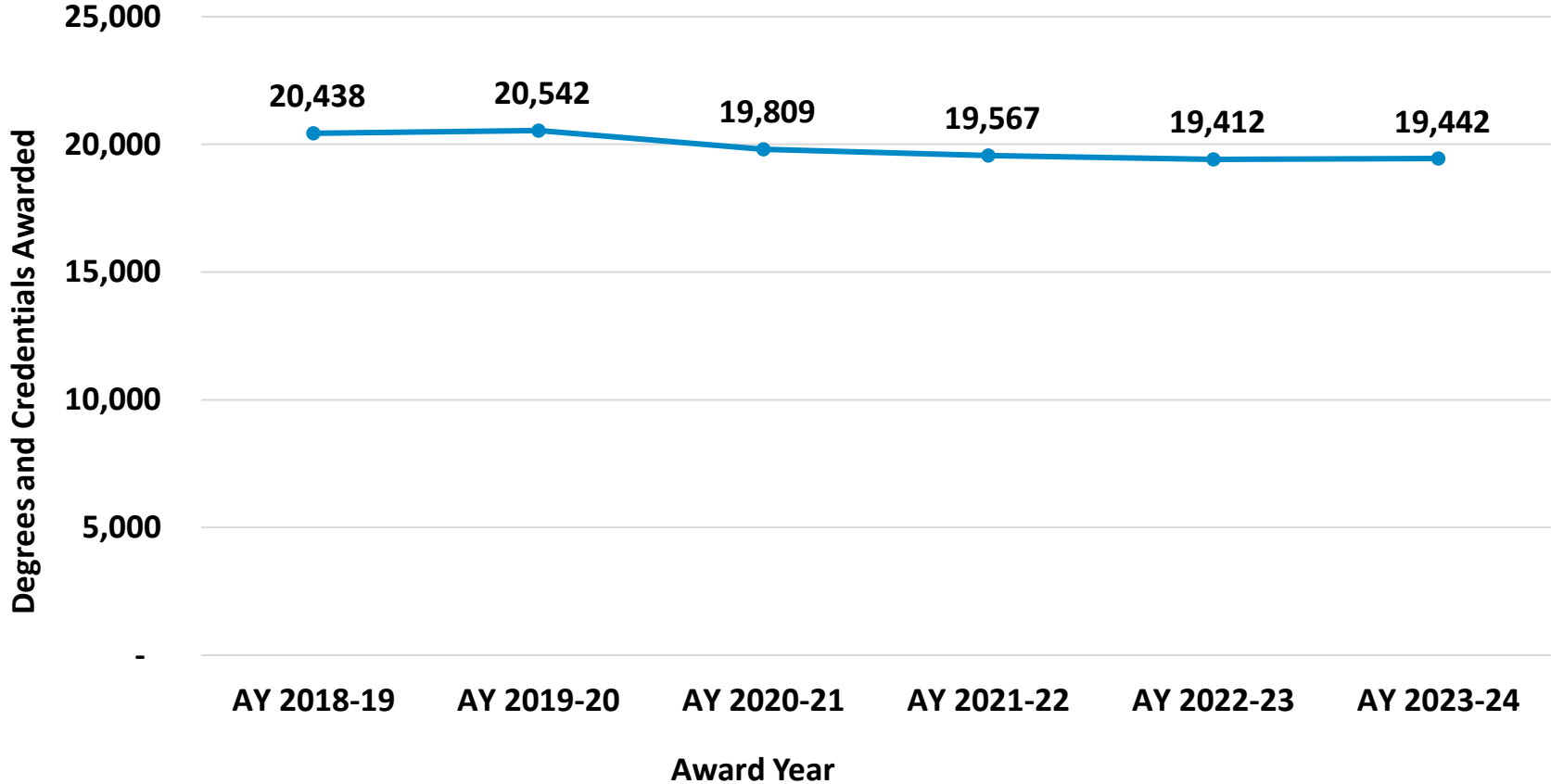
Degree and credential awards have grown steadily over the last five academic years.

- **+4.8%** since AY 22-23
- **+12.5%** since AY 18-19.

4YR Public Institution Degrees and Credentials 2018-19 to 2023-24

4YR Public Degrees and Credentials

Four-Year Public Undergraduate Degrees and Credentials

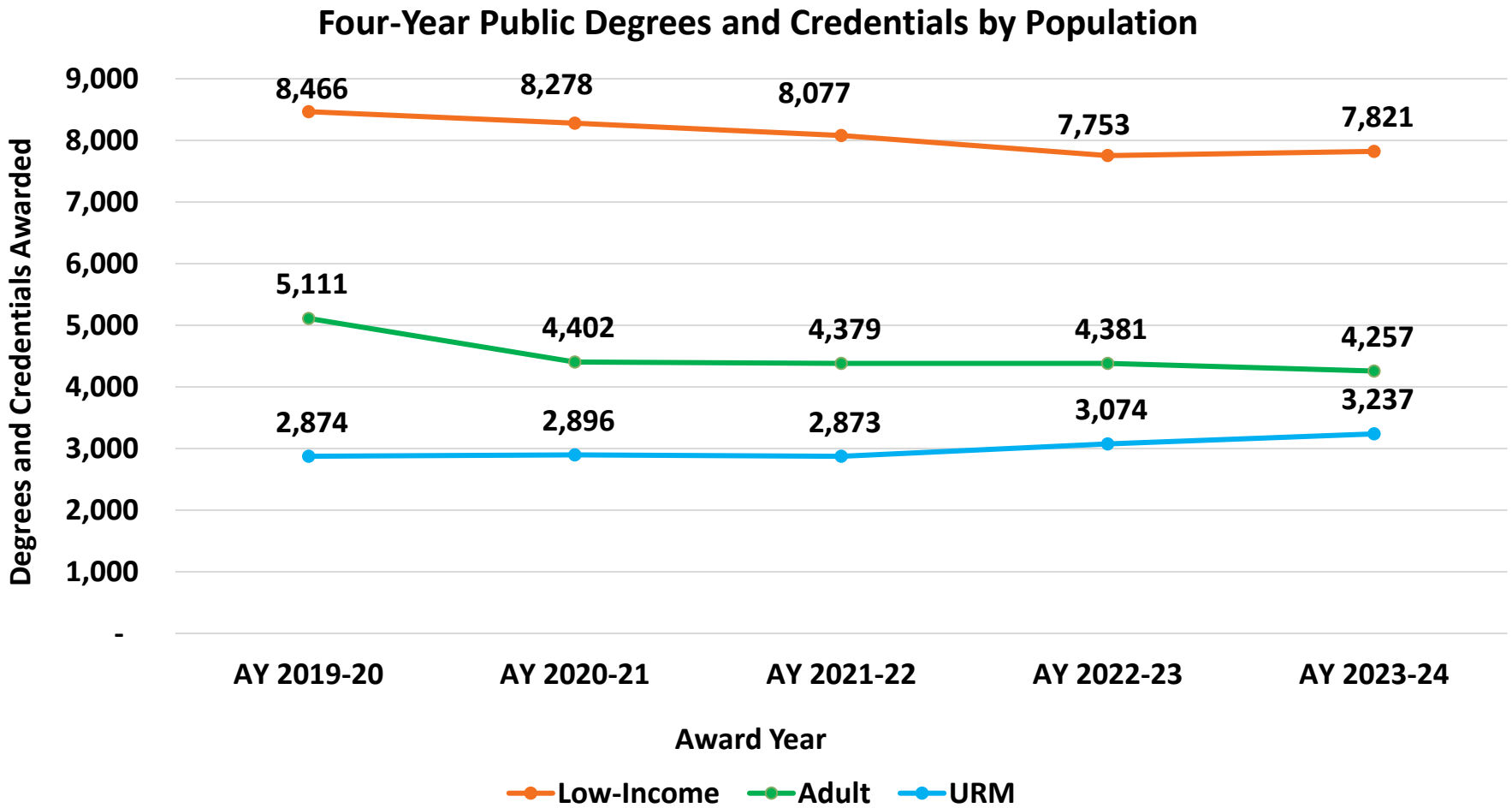


Degree Trends Over Time

Undergraduate credential production declined during the pandemic, but the decline flattened and before reversing last year.

- **+0.2%** since AY 22-23
- **-5.1%** since AY 18-19.

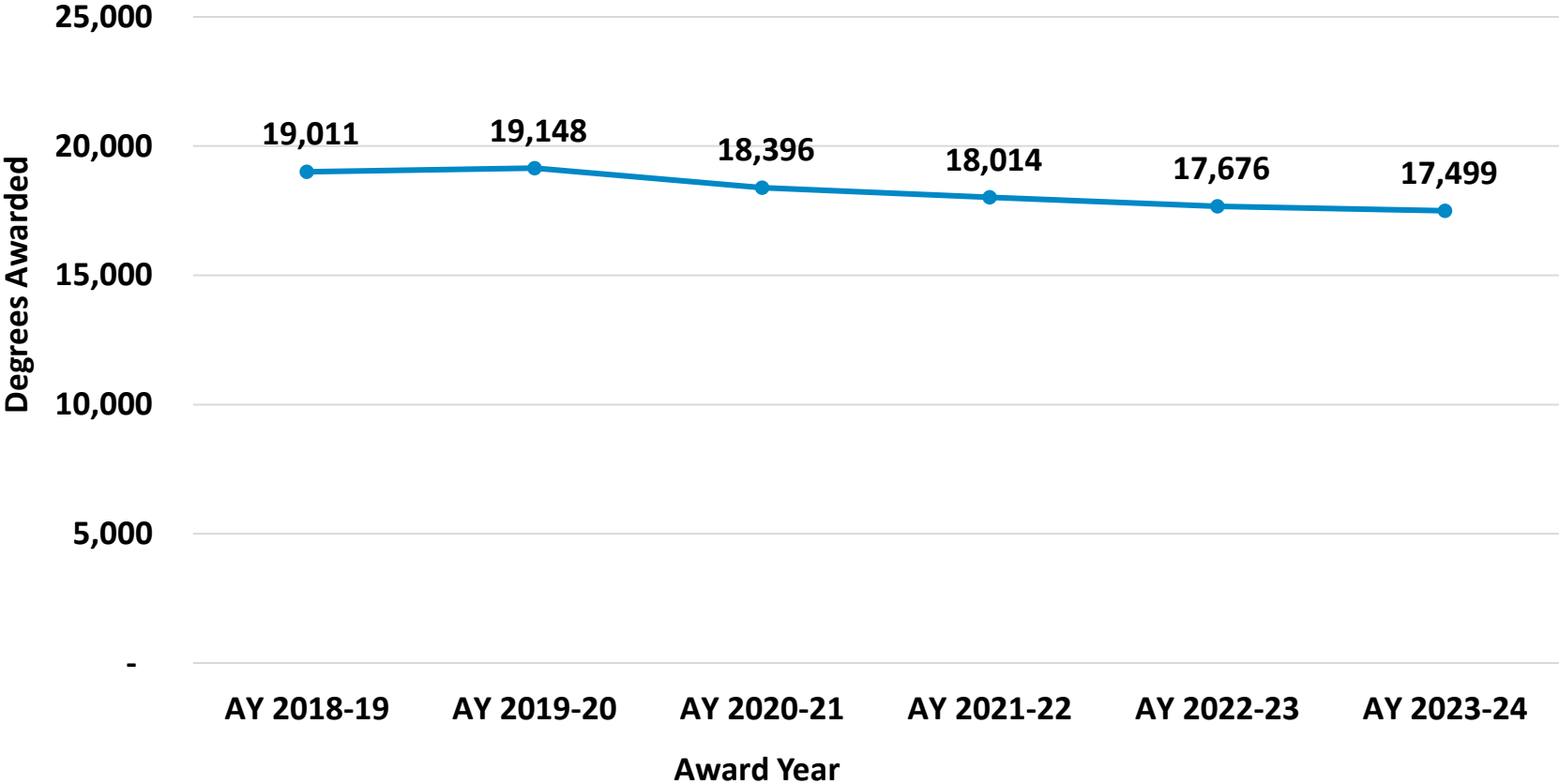
4YR Public Degrees and Credentials by Subgroup



- Low-Income Trends**
- **+0.9%** since AY 22-23.
 - **-8.0%** since AY 18-19.
- Adult Learner Trends**
- **-2.8%** since AY 22-23.
 - **-21.2%** since AY 18-19.
- URM Trends**
- **+5.3%** since AY 22-23.
 - **+17.2%** since AY 18-19.

4YR Public Baccalaureate Degrees Only

Four-Year Public Total Baccalaureate Degrees



Degree Trends Over Time

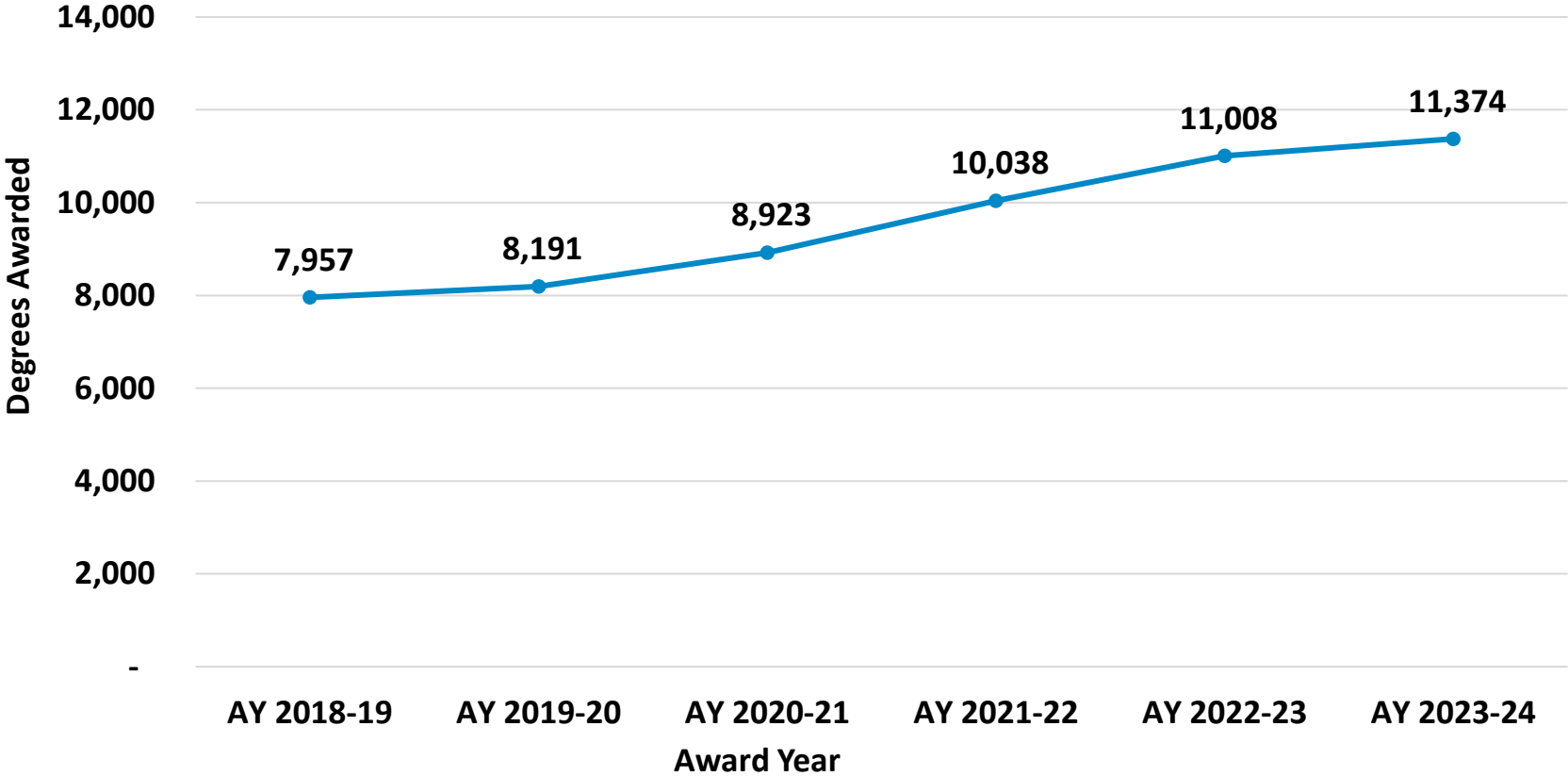
Baccalaureate degree production has slowed down since the pandemic.

- **-1.0%** since AY 22-23.
- **-8.6%** since AY 18-19.

Decreases related to the pandemic should recover over time but will lag the enrollment rebound.

4YR Public Graduate/Professional Degrees and Credentials

Graduate/Professional Degrees and Credentials



Degree Trends Over Time

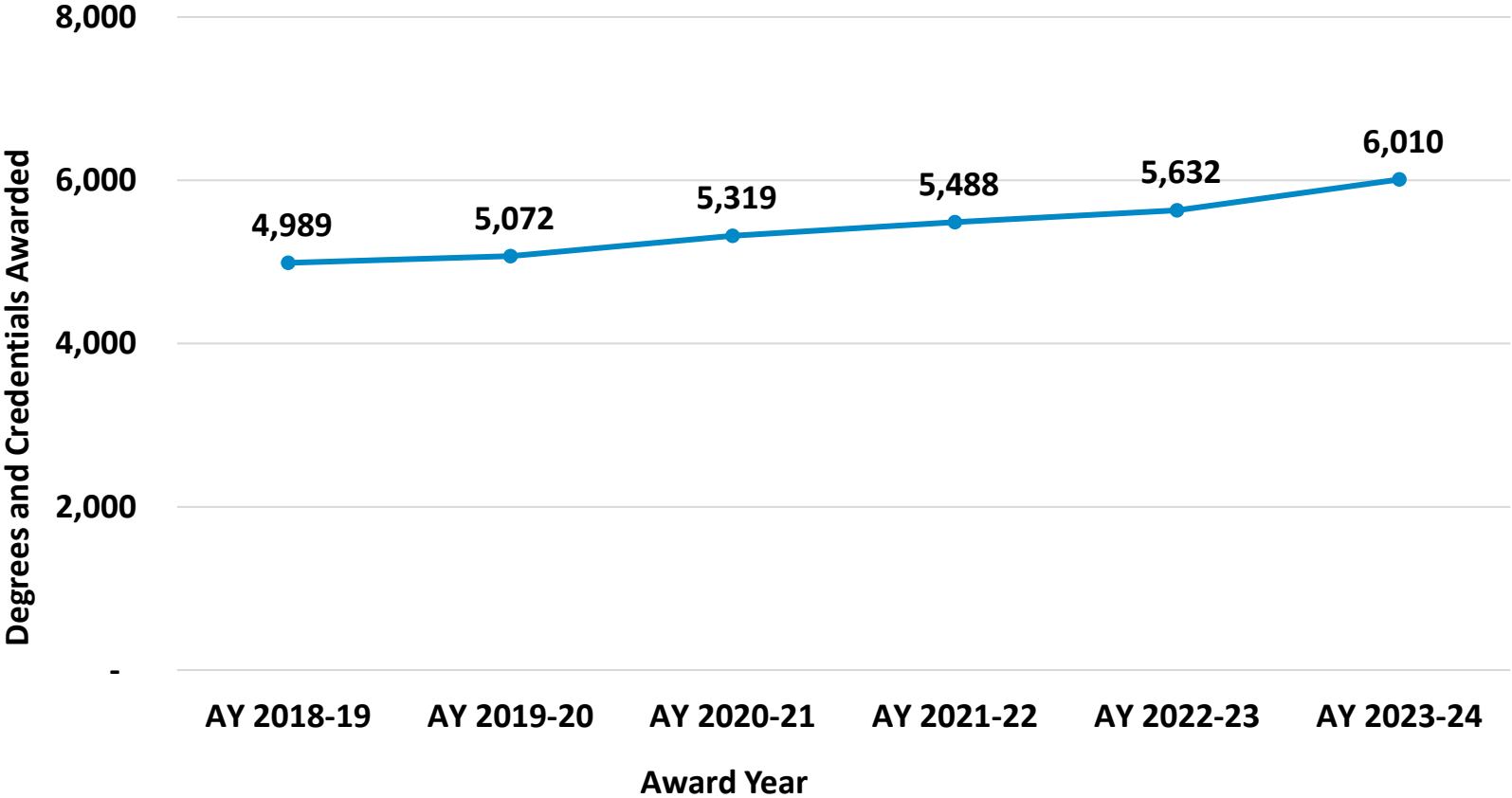
Graduate/professional completions demonstrate steady growth.

- **+3.2%** since AY 22-23.
- **+30.0%** since AY 18-19.

4YR Private Institution Degrees and Credentials 2018-19 to 2023-24

4YR Private Undergraduate Degrees and Credentials

Four-Year Private Undergraduate Degrees and Credentials



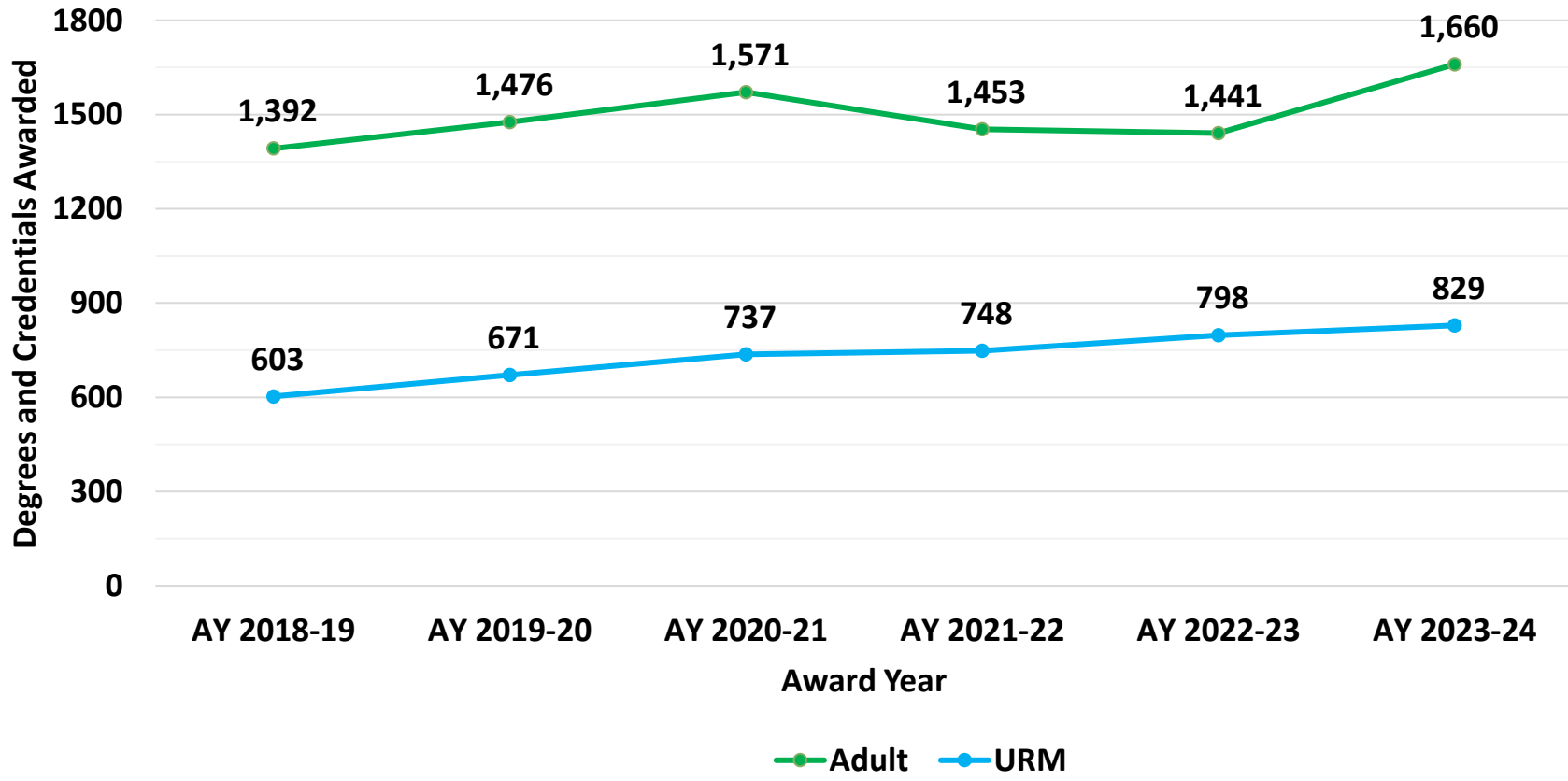
Degree Trends Over Time

Undergraduate credential completions at private institutions demonstrate steady growth.

- **+6.7%** since AY 22-23.
- **+17.0%** since AY 18-19.

4YR Private Degrees and Credentials by Subgroup

Four-Year Private Degrees and Credentials by Population



Adult Learners Trends

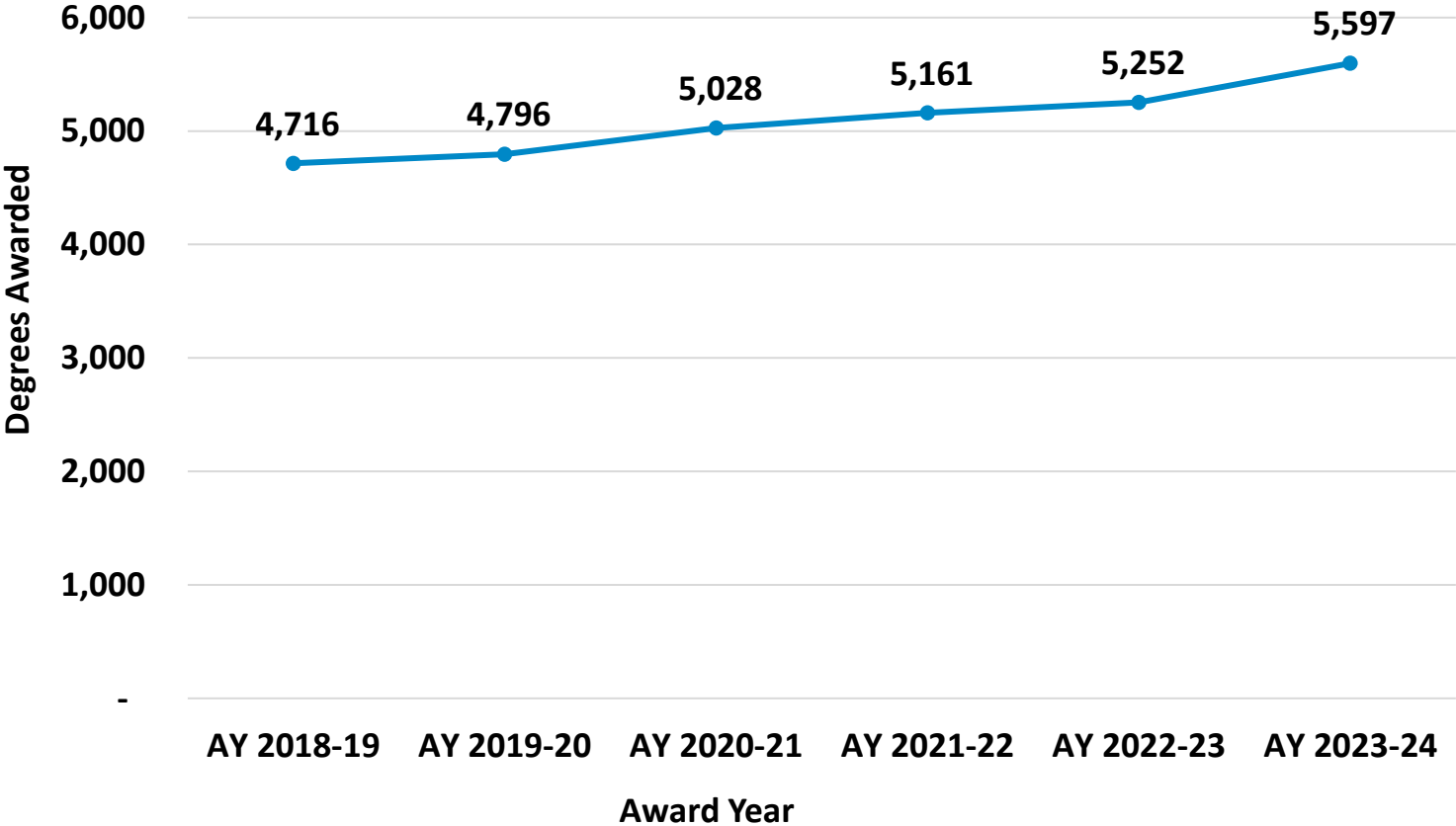
- **+15.2%** since AY 22-23.
- **+19.3%** since AY 18-19.

URM Trends

- **+3.9%** since AY 22-23.
- **+37.5%** since AY 18-19.

4YR Private Baccalaureate Degrees Only

Four-Year Private Total Baccalaureate Degrees



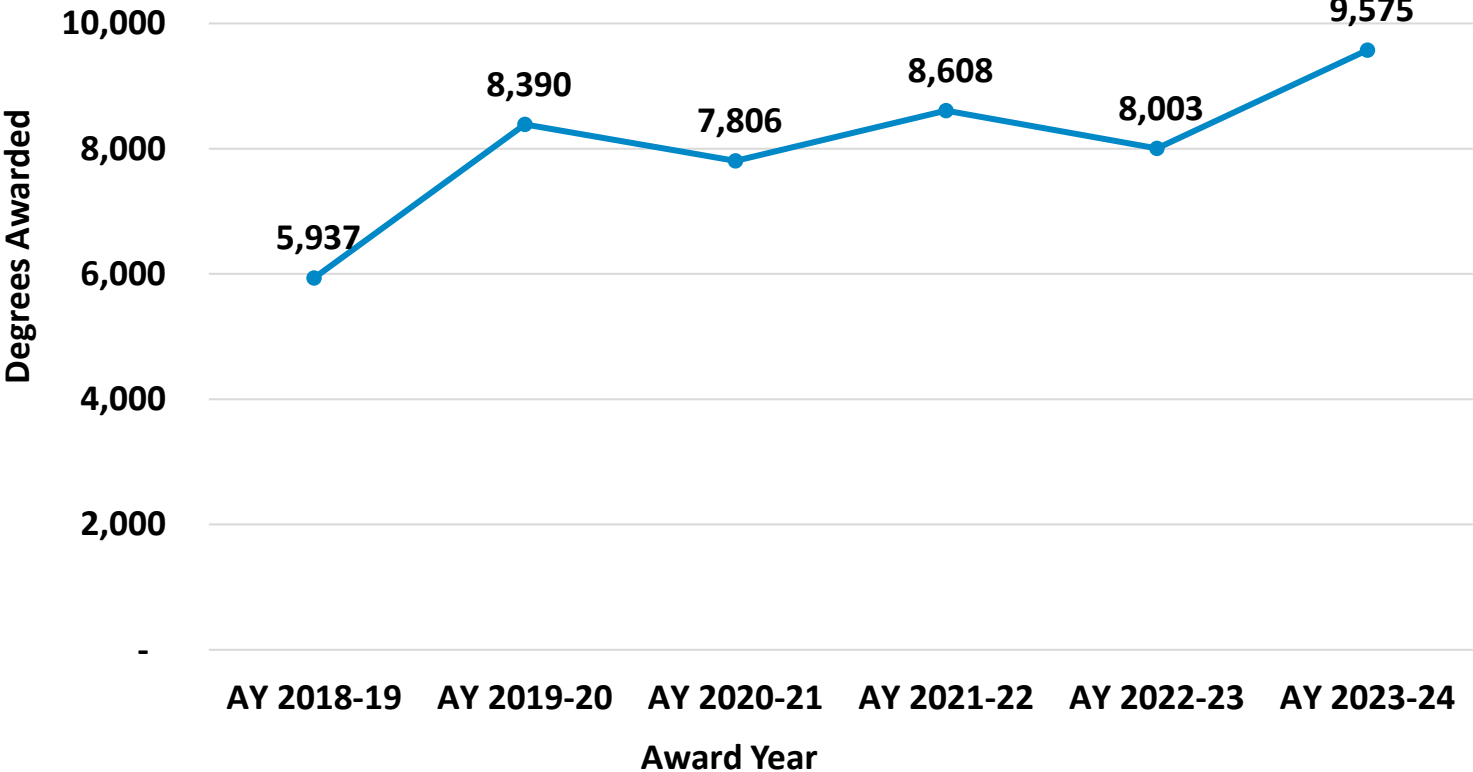
Degree Trends Over Time

Baccalaureate degree completions at private institutions continue to grow, driven by strong demand and effective student support strategies.

- **+6.2%** since AY 22-23.
- **+15.7%** since AY 18-19.

4YR Private Graduate/Professional Degrees and Credentials

Graduate/Professional Degrees and Credentials



Degree Trends Over Time

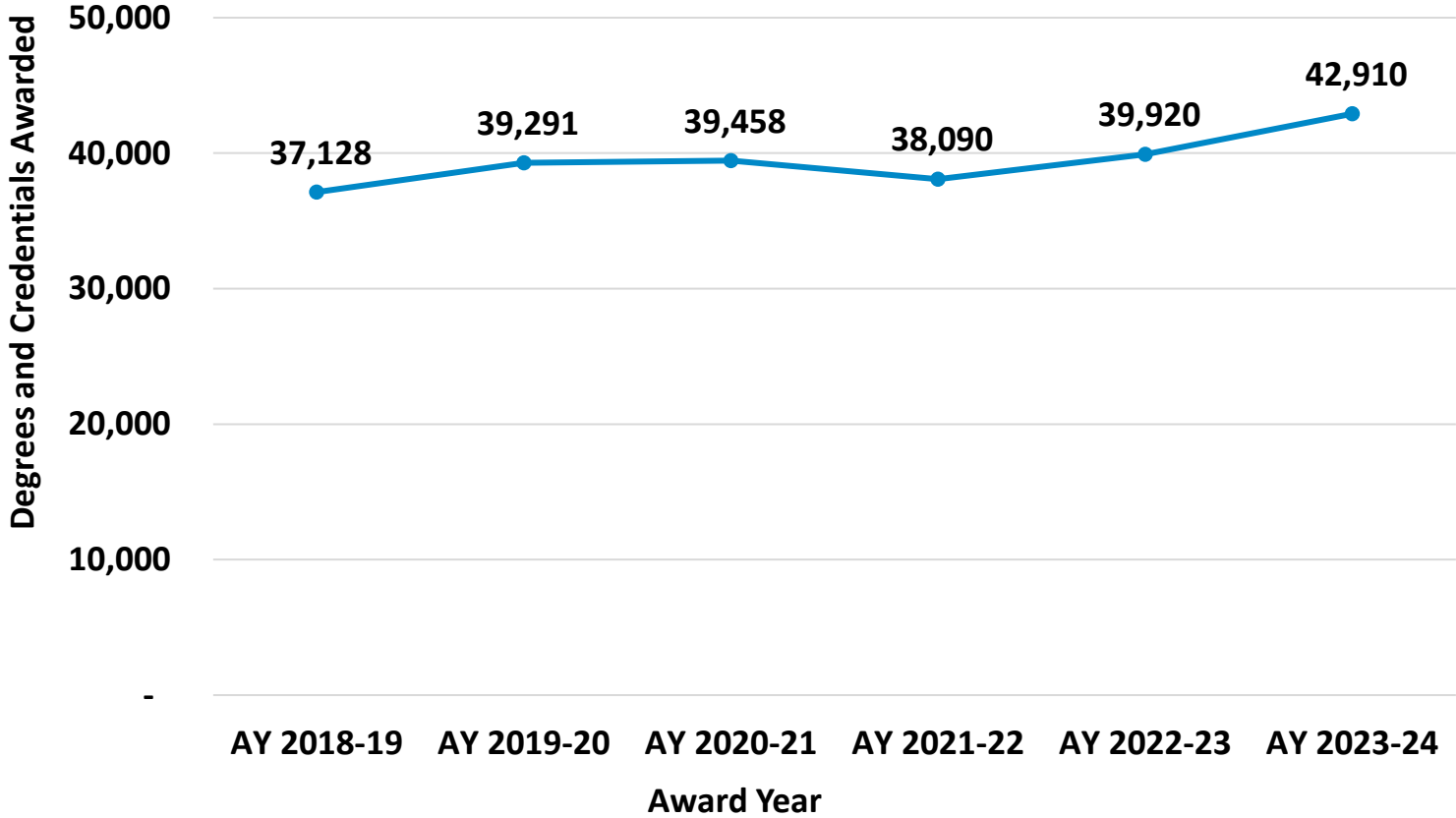
Graduate and professional credential completions continue to rise, driven by increasing demand for advanced education.

- **+16.4%** since AY 22-23.
- **+38.0%** since AY 18-19.

2YR Public Institution Undergraduate Degrees and Credentials 2018-19 to 2023-24

2YP Degrees and Credentials

Two-Year Public Total Degrees and Credentials



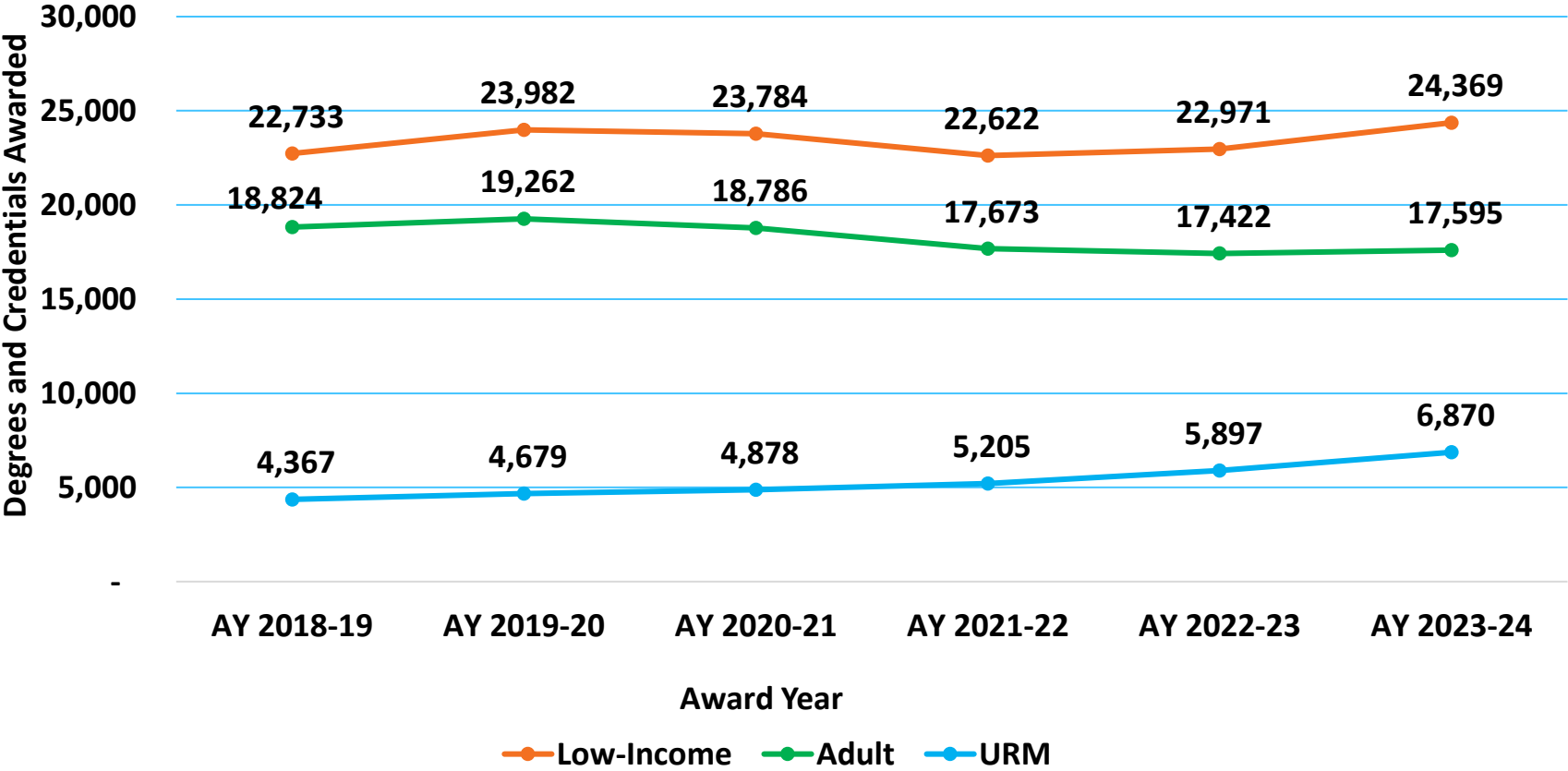
Degree Trends Over Time

Completions at two-year public institutions show steady growth, with a strong recovery following the pandemic.

- **+7.5%** since AY 22-23.
- **+15.6%** since AY 18-19.

2YP Degrees and Credentials by Subgroup

Two-Year Public Degrees and Credentials by Population



Low-Income Trends

- +6.1% since AY 22-23.
- +7.2% since AY 18-19.

Adult Learners Trends

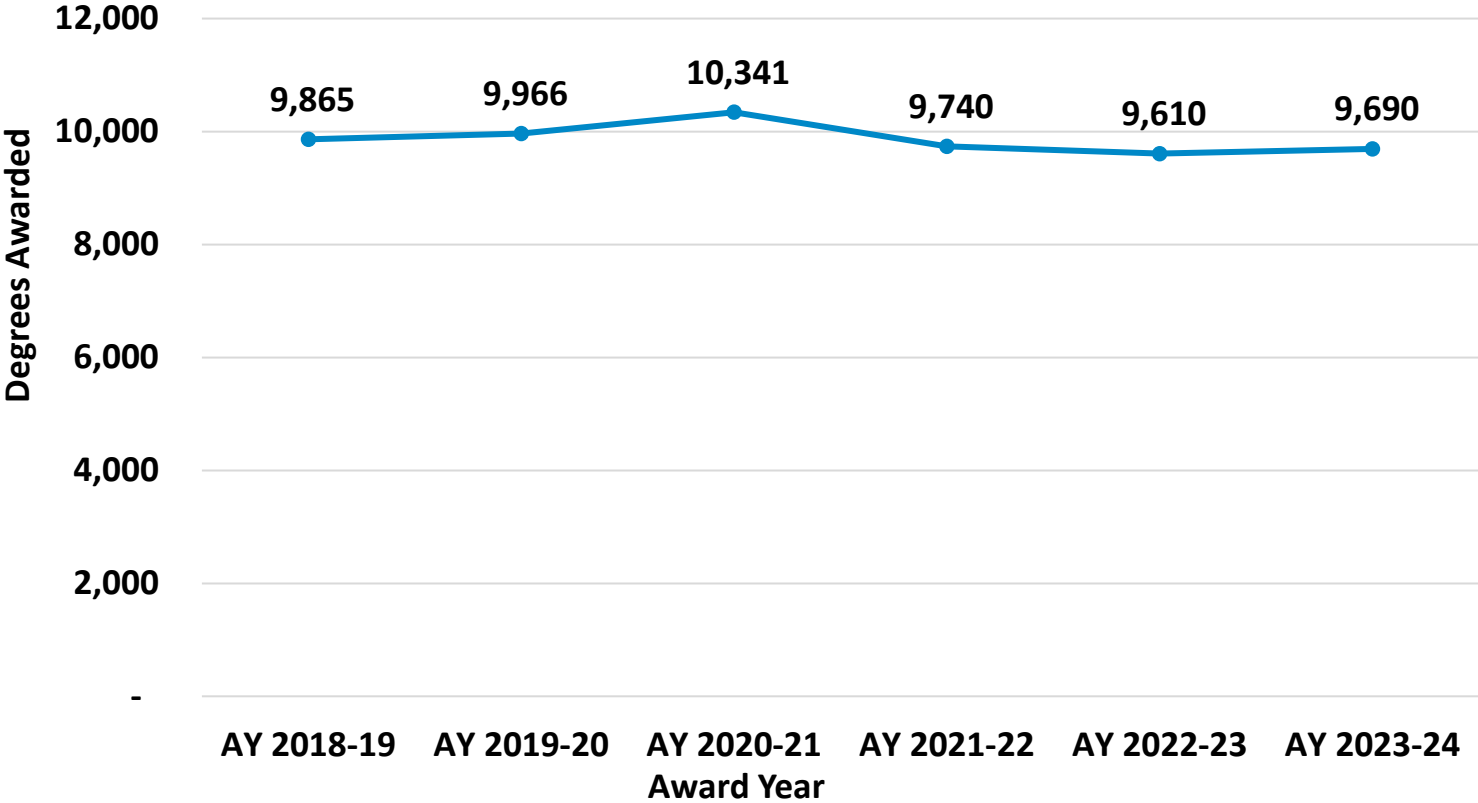
- +1.0% since AY 22-23.
- -6.5% since AY 18-19.

URM Trends

- +16.5% since AY 22-23.
- +57.3% since AY 18-19.

2YP Associate Degrees Only

Two-Year Public Total Associate Degrees



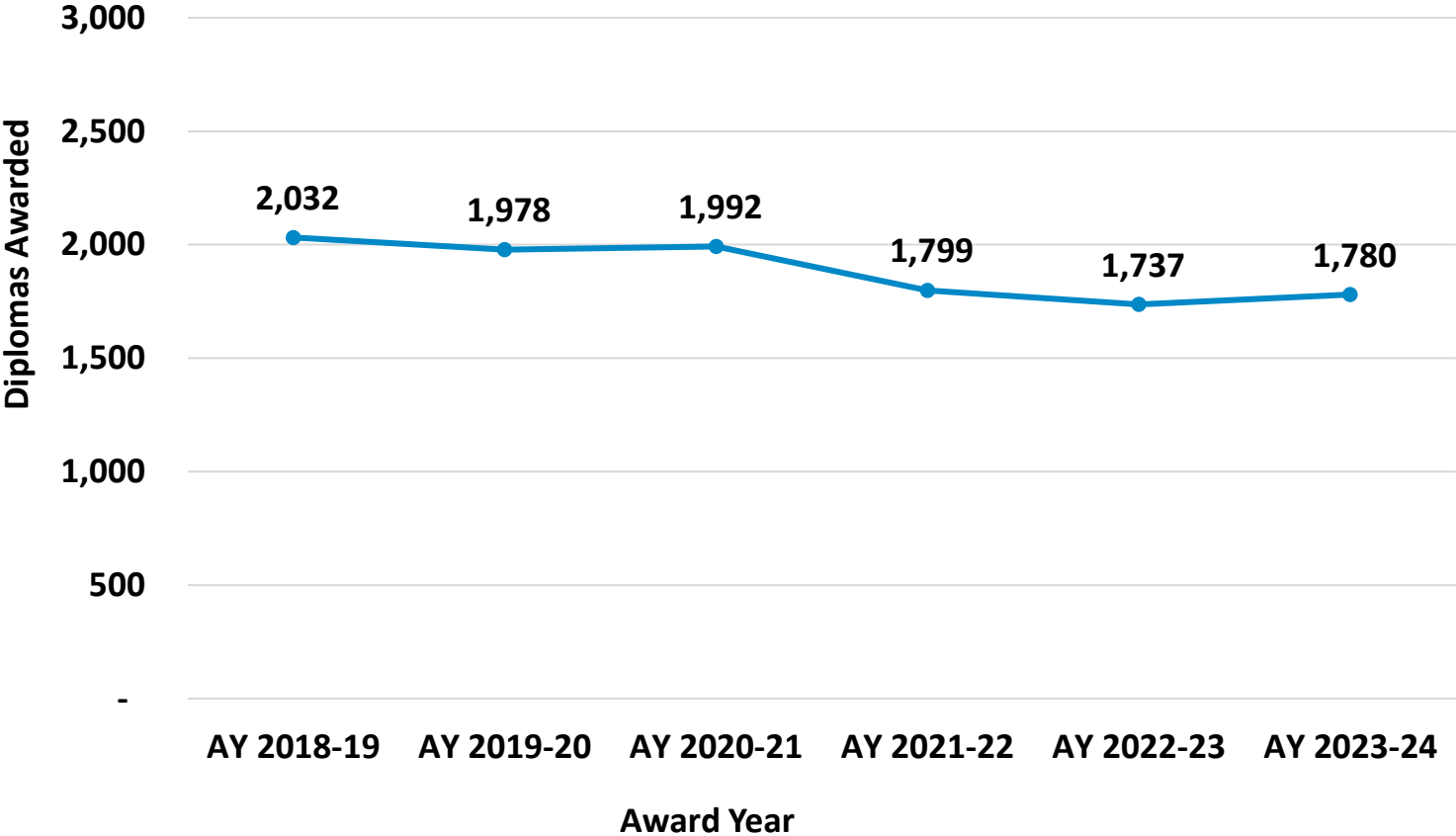
Degree Trends Over Time

Degree completions at two-year public institutions have remained stable, with minor fluctuations over recent years.

- **+0.8%** since AY 22-23.
- **-1.8%** since AY 18-19.

2YP Diplomas Only

Two-Year Public Total Diplomas



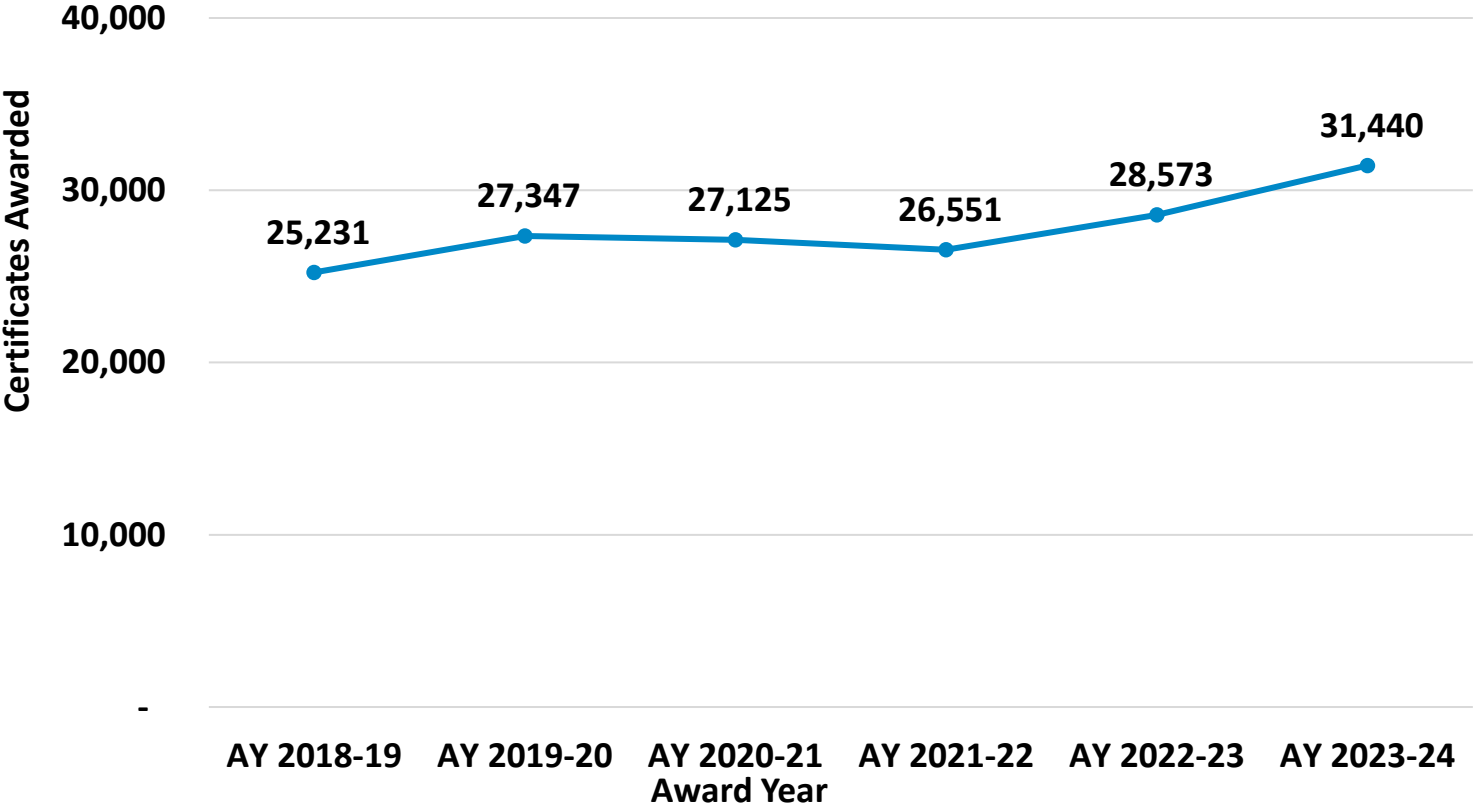
Degree Trends Over Time

Diploma completions declined in AY 21-22, followed by a modest rebound in AY 23-24.

- **+2.5%** since AY 22-23.
- **-12.4%** since AY 18-19.

2YP Certificate Only

Two-Year Public Total Certificates



Degree Trends Over Time

Certificates are the primary driver of credential growth at two-year public institutions and remain the most awarded credential, surpassing both degrees and non-degrees.

- **+10.0%** since AY 22-23.
- **+24.6%** since AY 18-19.

Summary

Summary

Overall Trends

- Credential attainment is recovering to pre-COVID levels but remains uneven across subgroups and credential types.

Subgroup Highlights

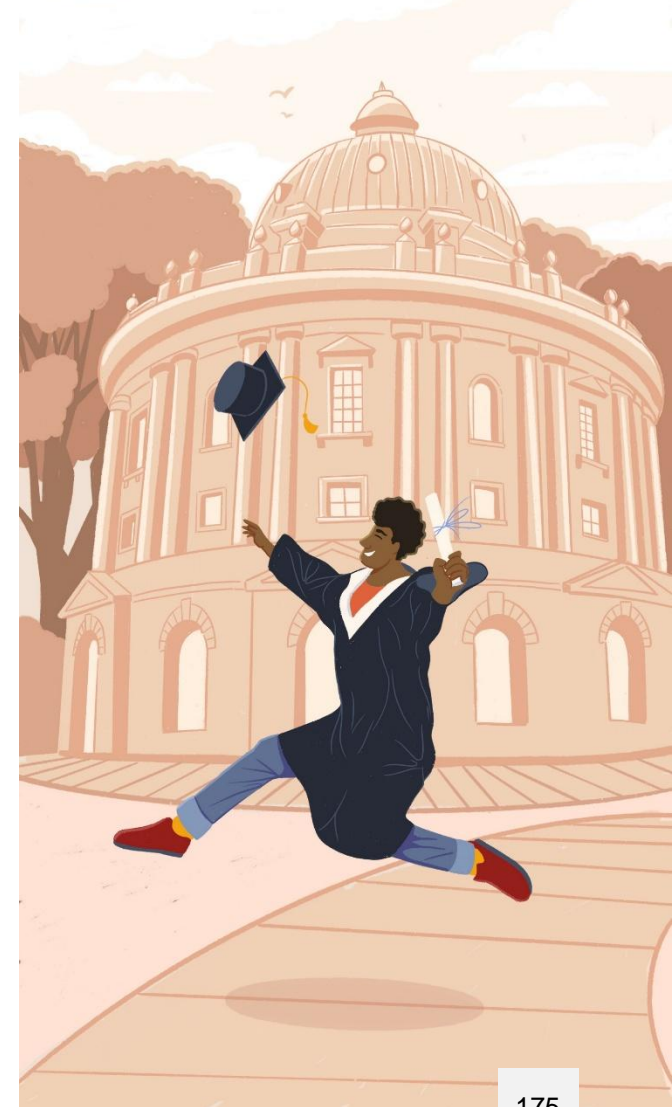
- **URM Students:** Strong growth at public (+41.8%) and private (+37.5%) institutions since AY 2018-19.
- **Low-Income Students:** Declines at four-year publics (-8%) but modest recovery in 2023-24 (+0.9%) and steady growth at two-year publics (+7.2% since AY 2018-19).
- **Adult Students:** Overall declines since AY 2018-19, with slight recovery at two-year publics (+1.0%).

Credential Trends

- **Undergraduate Credentials:** Variable, with KCTCS leading growth in non-degree credentials.
- **Graduate Credentials:** Sustained, consistent increases.

Key Insight

- Enrollment patterns and subgroup disparities are closely tied to trends in undergraduate credential attainment, reflecting the importance of statewide work aimed at enrolling and supporting targeted populations.



Areas of Opportunity



Advancing Kentucky's 60X30 Goal

- **Focus Areas:** Adult & Low-Income Enrollment and Completion
- **Key Achievements:**
 - Performance funding now weights adult enrollment.
 - New staff and statewide initiatives address student basic needs for adult learners, parenting students, etc.
 - Total & first-time adult enrollment trending upward.
 - Increased tracking and reporting of early postsecondary completion and college-going

Support Programs:

- [Student Success Collaborative](#)
- Commonwealth Education Continuum
- Credit for Prior Learning
- [Work Ready Kentucky Scholarships \(WRKS\)](#)
- Institution-Led Initiatives

Stay Connected



Twitter: **CPENews and CPEPres**



Data Center: cpe.ky.gov/data



Newsletter: cpe.ky.gov/news/subscribe

TITLE:	Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund Update
DESCRIPTION:	CPE staff will provide an update on the student impact of the healthcare training scholarships partnership proposal awards.
STAFF CONTACT:	Leslie Sizemore, PhD, EdS, OTR/L, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Created in the 2023 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly through HB 200, the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF) is a groundbreaking framework for public/private partnership. The legislation directs industry and government to carry out a shared mission - to cultivate a robust healthcare workforce in Kentucky. During the 2024 legislative session, the HWIF was appropriated \$10 million to match private dollars across the biennium, with \$7 million of that amount being designated for the first year and \$3 million for the second year. With the appropriation, HWIF aims to enhance financial support for students, prioritize underserved geographic areas, improve racial and ethnic diversity within healthcare fields and strengthen partnerships between educational institutions and healthcare providers across Kentucky.

HEALTHCARE TRAINING PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL AWARDS

During the first year of the HWIF, 46 healthcare training program partnership proposals were awarded funding, totaling a public/private investment of \$13,290,000 for healthcare training scholarships. A total of 27 healthcare partners invested in a HWIF partnership, and 35 healthcare training programs across 21 institutions/training sites were awarded funds. The awarded funds will provide full-tuition scholarships for one or two years to an estimated 794 Kentucky students.

HEALTHCARE TRAINING PROGRAM INCENTIVE FUND AWARD

Through HWIF, CPE was also able to make a \$150,000 incentive fund award to ECU's School of Nursing. The private portion of this award (\$75,000) was donated by Humana. This award recognizes the strength of ECU's program and their dedication to student success. The funds can be used to invest in the continued excellence of the program by funding the: (a) education, recruitment, and training of the healthcare program's faculty and staff; or (b) maintenance and acquisition of medical equipment utilized by the healthcare program.

Photos of the awardees can be found in the press release: <https://cpe.ky.gov/news/stories/cpe-awards-11m-hwif.html>.

Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund

Healthcare Training Program Partnership Proposal Awards

Proposal Submission Overview

Total Proposals Submitted: 51
Number of Eligible Proposals: 47
Number of Proposals Awarded Funding: 46

Student Impact

Number of students receiving full-tuition scholarships: 794

Award Breakdown

Total dollars awarded: \$13,290,000

Largest Awards

- University of Louisville, BSN - \$4,880,000
- Bellarmine University, Nurse Anesthesia Program - \$1,000,000
- Northern Kentucky University, BSN - \$1,000,000

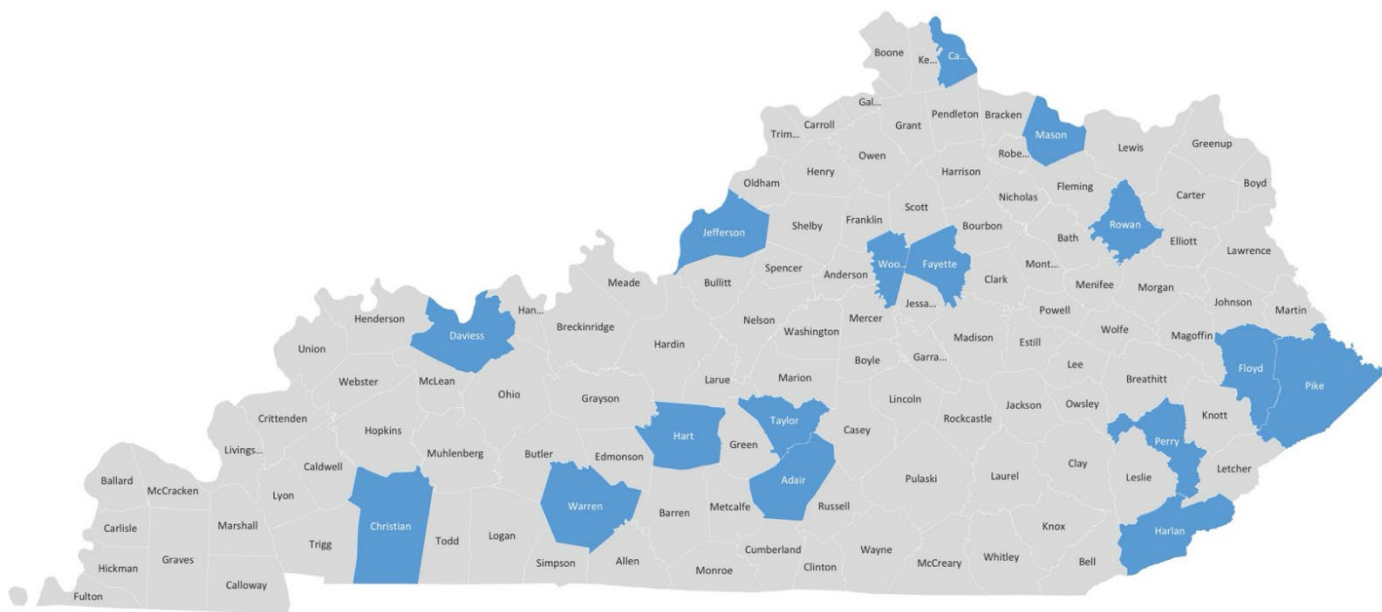
Smallest Awards

- Bluegrass Community & Technical College, Paramedicine - \$11,474
- Central Kentucky Paramedic Education Consortium - \$11,214
- Southcentral Kentucky CTC, AAS in Radiography- \$10,000

Breakdown by Institutional Type

- **KCTCS**
 - 13 healthcare training programs awarded across 7 institutions
 - \$1,567,474 awarded (12% of total)
- **4-Year Public Universities**
 - 12 healthcare training programs awarded across 5 institutions
 - \$9,802,424 awarded (74% of total)
- **AIKCU Institutions**
 - 6 healthcare training programs awarded across 5 institutions
 - \$1,357,332 awarded (10% of total)
- **Independent EMS Training Programs**
 - 4 healthcare training programs awarded
 - \$562,770 awarded (4% of total)

Geographic Distribution of Healthcare Training Programs Awarded Funded



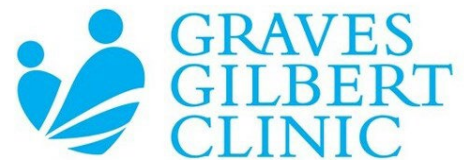
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Breakdown by Healthcare Training Program

Program	Institution(s)
EMS/Paramedicine Total Awarded: \$574,244 Intended Student Impact: 67	Bluegrass Community & Technical College Bridge Valley Community & Technical College - Rowan Co. Central KY Paramedicine Consortium Hart Co. Ambulance Service – EMT Immersion Program Hopkinsville/Christian Co. Paramedicine Program
Licensed Practice Nursing Total Awarded: \$185,000 Intended Student Impact: 10	Hazard Community & Technical College Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College
Associate Degree Nursing Total Awarded: \$1,214,700 Intended Student Impact: 79	Big Sandy Community & Technical College Campbellsville University Hazard Community & Technical College Morehead State University Midway University Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College Southeast Community & Technical College University of Pikeville
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Total Awarded: \$7,698,008 Intended Student Impact: 455	Lindsey Wilson College Morehead State University University of Kentucky University of Louisville Western Kentucky University

Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) Total Awarded: \$1,000,000 Intended Student Impact: 9	Bellarmine University
AAS in Nuclear Medicine Technology Total Awarded: \$35,000 Intended Student Impact: 5	Hazard Community & Technical College
AAS in Physical Therapy Asst. Total Awarded: \$141,000 Intended Student Impact: 8	Maysville Community & Technical College Southeast Community & Technical College
AAS in Radiography Total Awarded: \$490,320 Intended Student Impact: 20	Campbellsville University Morehead State University Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College Owensboro Community & Technical College
BS in Radiologic Science Total Awarded: \$720,000 Intended Student Impact: 72	Northern Kentucky University
AAS in Respiratory Therapy Total Awarded: \$100,000 Intended Student Impact: 5	Maysville Community & Technical College
BS in Respiratory Care Total Awarded: \$300,000 Intended Student Impact: 30	Northern Kentucky University
Bachelor of Science in Social Work Total Awarded: \$147,012 Intended Student Impact: 6	Western Kentucky University
Master of Science in Social Work Total Awarded: \$551,184 Intended Student Impact: 28	Northern Kentucky University Western Kentucky University

Healthcare Partners





CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



EKU HOSTS RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATING THE ACCEPTANCE OF SNAP BENEFITS ON CAMPUS

Eastern Kentucky University celebrated the acceptance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on campus with a ribbon-cutting event at the Stratton P.O.D. (Provisions on Demand) in November. SNAP, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program, provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budgets. The Stratton P.O.D. now offers increased grocery access for students and the EKU community.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, approximately one in four college students experiences food insecurity, which means they do not have adequate access to food products.

"As a university, our mission extends beyond academic excellence; we also want to ensure that every student has the resources they need to succeed," said EKU President David McFaddin. "Providing access to food security through programs like SNAP and the Colonel's Cupboard fosters an environment where students can thrive, not just in the classroom, but in their future careers."

In April, EKU and Aramark had announced that EKU would be the first school in Aramark's Collegiate Hospitality Midwest Region with a convenience store accepting SNAP benefits. EKU is also the first university in the Aramark system to accept SNAP benefits in Kentucky.

Brittany Collins, an EKU senior and single mother of two, said, "The days are long, and the stress is real. Too often, I end up skipping meals entirely. That's why the acceptance of SNAP here at the P.O.D. in Stratton is such a big deal for students like me who are stretched thin and juggling more responsibilities than we can count. This changes more than just convenience. It's a lifeline."

The Food Security Coalition, which meets every semester, led the initiative to bring SNAP benefits to campus. Alongside the Colonel's Cupboard, EKU's food pantry, the Coalition raises awareness about food insecurity and provides resources to students. In November, the Colonel's Cupboard celebrated 10 years of supporting students with food, toiletry items and clothing during times of financial distress.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR EKU'S NEW FLIGHT TRAINING CENTER WELCOMED STATE LEADERS

Eastern Kentucky University held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new flight training center at the Central Kentucky Regional Airport (CKRA) on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The \$25 million facility, funded by Kentucky's General Assembly, is expected to be completed by early 2027. State leaders including Governor Andy Beshear, Senate President Robert Stivers, and House Speaker Pro Tem David Meade spoke at the event.

"The new flight training center represents a pivotal step forward in EKU's commitment to preparing students for high-demand careers," said EKU President David McFaddin. "At a time when the aviation industry is experiencing critical pilot shortages, this facility not only equips our students with cutting-edge resources but also positions them to meet the growing need for skilled professionals in the aviation field."

The new facility will replace two outdated trailers that currently house the EKU Aviation program at the airport and support the program's unprecedented growth. As the only university-based flight program in the Commonwealth, EKU Aviation boasts a current enrollment of more than 460 students and a 100% job placement rate.

"As the Kentucky economy continues to grow and prosper, so does the need for a well-trained workforce. The new center will be transformational," said Governor Beshear. Senate President Stivers added, "The General Assembly's \$25 million investment affirms our commitment to being a leader in the aviation field."

EKU's Aviation program also received federal funding for a \$4.5 million general aviation terminal and became the 12th university to partner with Allegiant Air to offer students a fast track to the airline industry with the Accelerate Pilot Pathway Program.

EKU RECEIVES \$5 MILLION FOR CORBIN CHILDCARE CENTER

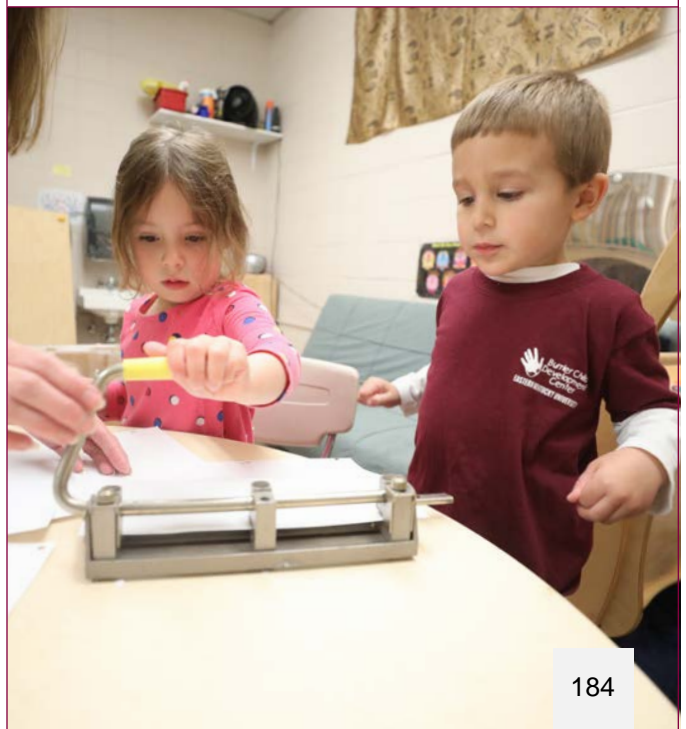
In 2024, Eastern Kentucky University received \$5 million from the Kentucky General Assembly to fund the construction of a childcare center on the Corbin Campus. The childcare center, which is part of the university's initiative to bring a Scholar House to the Corbin Campus, will accommodate more than 100 children.

"Being the School of Opportunity means fostering an environment where everyone can thrive," said EKU President David McFaddin. "Ensuring that parents and their children have both educational resources and a comfortable living environment is central to our mission."

Currently, there are two Scholar Houses on EKU's main campus in Richmond. Scholar Houses provide affordable housing and childcare to single parents who are seeking higher education.

"This is where policy meets practicality and serves multiple needs simultaneously," said Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester. "The \$5 million represents a long-term investment in strengthening today's workforce by removing one of the greatest impediments to pursuing advanced education, alleviating the challenges that finding suitable childcare brings."

EKU has been working closely with legislators, local officials and community leaders including Senate President Robert Stivers, Corbin Mayor Suzie Razmus, the Volunteers of America and others to expand the Scholar House concept in Corbin.





GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2025



Groundbreaking Ceremony of New Outdoor Classroom at Tates Creek Middle School

KSU and Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) held a groundbreaking ceremony at Tates Creek Middle School in Lexington, KY for a greenhouse that will serve as an Outdoor Classroom for the community. This marks the beginning of major collaborations between community partners to provide enhanced agricultural education to local students that will include a dynamic mixture of classes and hands-on training. The milestone event took place on December 3, 2024 at Tates Creek Middle School.

“This collaboration was truly led by the community, for the community, to enhance learning opportunities to students. Student Ag Ambassadors of Tates Creek Middle School played a major role in envisioning the future of this Outdoor Classroom, testifying to the truly collaborative spirit of the project,” said KSU President, Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo. “The Outdoor Classroom poses an exciting opportunity for students from Tates Creek Middle School to learn the best agricultural practices both in theory and through hands-on practice led by our distinguished KSU faculty.”

Savion Briggs Announced as an AT&T 2024 Rising Future Makers Showcase Winner

Savion Briggs, a KSU student, was recently announced as an AT&T 2024 Rising Future Makers Showcase Winner. This initiative by AT&T annually recognizes and supports cohorts of 25 students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who are making an impact in their communities and on their campus.



Prashant Bhatt Awarded for their Research in Soil Health

KSU graduate student, Prashant Bhatt, was awarded third place in the Graduate Student Oral Presentation, Soil Health Session, at the 2024 ASA, CSSA, SSSA, International Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX. Bhatt, who will graduate in May 2025 with a Master’s of Science in Environmental Science, presented his research titled, “Integration of Industrial Hemp in Conventional Crop Rotation System and its Effect on Soil Health.” “It is a great experience to be in these kinds of conferences where we directly interact with our scientific community to get feedback or give our experiences to them,” said Bhatt.



Louisville Metro Department of Corrections Establish Correctional Certificate Pathway

KSU and the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) signed a new memorandum of understanding establishing a partnership to launch the Correctional Certificate Pathway for LMDC corrections officers. The new pathway will meet the educational needs of LMDC corrections officers and supports their career advancements.

“We are pleased to partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections to support correctional officers. The Correctional Certificate Pathway will provide officers the educational tools to enhance their service and careers,” said KSU President, Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo.

Tanya Berry as the 2024 Small Farmer of the Year

KSU named Tanya Berry as its 2024 Small Farmer of the Year at the 2024 Kentucky Small, Limited-Resource, Minority Farmers Conference. Tanya and her husband, John, own Berry Farms, a greenhouse and produce store in Monticello, KY.

Tanya began with a small, \$300 greenhouse which her husband expanded to be 50 feet long and lasted 15 years. Berry Farms is a key business for the local community. Together, Tanya and John are always finding new ways to grow their business.

“Where we live in our community, there’s no grocery store for over 17 miles east of us, and that helps our neighbors to be able to stop here and get their cucumbers for supper or get their mess of beans for Sunday dinner and I love being part of this process,” said Tanya.

KSU Aquaponics and Asian Sea Bass

After a successful summer and fall raising Asian Sea Bass, also called Barramundi, the Aquaponics lab at KSU has started harvesting. Barramundi as a food fish are growing in popularity globally, but production of these fish in U.S. markets is almost non-existent. The popularity of these fish means they fetch a high price for producers and could be a great species for farm production in Kentucky. While harvesting, the Aquaponics lab will collect data on growth rates, feed conversion ratios, and fillet yields, which will be used to assess the potential for Barramundi production in the state. This information will be passed on to local farmers who are interested in diversifying their on-farm production.



ECTC and KSU Announce New RN-to-BSN Partnership

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College and Kentucky State University announced at a signing ceremony on November 13, 2024 a new partnership to provide a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The partnership creates a pathway for graduates of ECTC’s nursing program to pursue a BSN from KSU with significant in-person support on the ECTC campus. In addition, the ECTC-2-KSU Pathway Scholarship provides a tuition-free bachelor’s degree to students eligible for the federal Pell grant.

“The RN-to-BSN pathway with Kentucky State University is a great opportunity to continue supporting ECTC nursing graduates as they advance their educations and careers,” said ECTC President Dr. Juston Pate. “Not only does this partnership increase affordability, access and resources for BSN students, it develops a critical future workforce for our region.”



JANUARY 2025



Architect's rendering of Prefontaine Hall

MSU names new residence hall, plans to build second residence hall

As Morehead State University moves forward with revitalizing its campus, it is focusing on improving the on-campus living experience for current and future students.

MSU is building a new 80,000-square-foot residence hall to house 310 students across four floors. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in October, and construction is currently underway.

The MSU Board of Regents recently approved naming this new residence hall Prefontaine Hall in honor of **Andy Prefontaine (Class of 1971)** and his family. Prefontaine is a loyal Eagle and a long-time supporter of MSU. The founder and CEO of Family Leisure in Indianapolis, he is also a board trustee for the MSU Foundation and a 2016 inductee to the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame.

The new Prefontaine Hall will be at the corner of Martindale Drive and Henry Ward Place, across from the Space Science Center. Completion is planned for Spring 2026.

MSU's Board of Regents also approved the construction of the second new residence hall. The hall has received approval from the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) Finance Committee and is waiting for full CPE Board approval. MSU will soon begin the design phase and finalize a location for construction, which will start in late summer 2025 and be completed by mid-fall 2026.



Office of the President

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MSU gains over \$215,000 raising nursing student workforce support

The Morehead State University Department of Nursing has been awarded \$215,900 in funding through the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's (CPE) Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund (HWIF).

The funds, approved by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2023, aim to address the nursing shortage in Kentucky. They provide scholarships for MSU nursing students, including the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN).

Funds were made possible through CHI Saint Joseph Health and UK St. Claire with matching funds from HWIF. CHI Saint Joseph Health contributed \$50,000 for the BSN program, which HWIF matched. UK St. Claire invested \$57,950 for the AASN program, which was also matched.

The scholarships help nursing students by easing financial burdens. They require students to work at Kentucky partner facilities after graduation. This program supports workforce needs, helps underserved students reach their goals, and strengthens the healthcare workforce.

Aristófanés Cedeño receives honorary doctorate from MSU

MSU awarded an honorary degree to an impactful educator and administrator in Kentucky higher education at its Fall 2024 Commencement ceremony.

Dr. Aristófanés Cedeño received a Doctor of Humane Letters. He is director emeritus of the Kentucky Governor's Scholar Program (GSP). GSP is a summer residential program for outstanding high school students in Kentucky who are rising seniors. MSU has hosted GSP for 14 years and has been a long-standing program supporter since 2006.

For 15 years, Dr. Cedeño worked as a professor at the University of Louisville. He joined the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) as faculty in 1992 and has served the program as campus director (Northern Kentucky University, 1995-2001), academic dean (1998-present), and executive director (2006-present).

He currently serves on the Board of the Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Conference of Governor's Schools.

Lindsay Johnson selected for Innovative Teacher Fellowship Program

Lindsay Johnson's (Class of 2011, 2018) love of school and teaching fuels her efforts with her students and extends beyond the classroom. An English teacher at Rowan County Senior High School, Johnson is on her way to doing that based on her recent recognition.

The Kentucky Innovative Learning Network (KY ILN) awarded her a place in the prestigious 2024-25 Innovative Teacher Fellowship Program. The fellowship is a Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) initiative in partnership with local school districts. It recognizes the state's top educators' dedication to advancing innovative educational practices and classroom experiences.

As one of only 10 teachers selected for this year's Innovative Teacher Fellowship Program, Johnson will help design transformative learning experiences, foster educational innovation, and promote a shared vision under the KDE's United We Learn framework. This framework's guiding principles are creating vibrant learning experiences, driving innovation and building strong community partnerships.



Murray State University earns reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Murray State University has earned reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The new 10-year accreditation was a rigorous multi-year effort and process led by the Office of the Provost and involved numerous academic and administrative areas across the University to present a profile of the institution and demonstrate compliance with all SACSCOC standards and requirements. The process culminated in a multi-day campus visit by a SACSCOC review team last spring.

This is the second consecutive 10-year reaffirmation in which there were no recommendations given by SACSCOC to Murray State.

“Murray State University received its first accreditation in 1928. Since that time, it has cultivated a tradition of excellence through the development and enhancement of its programs, services and resources,” said SACSCOC liaison and Senior Associate Provost Dr. Bob Pervine. “It is because of this diligence that Murray State University has consistently upheld all accreditation requirements and standards presented by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Murray State University is, first and foremost, committed to the success of its students, which makes the reaffirmation process a top priority.”

“Echoing Dr. Pervine, we are very proud of this reaffirmation. In many ways, reaffirmation of accreditation is a true mark of high quality, especially when for 20 years now, our result was with no recommendations. That in and of itself is a testament to how seriously the faculty, staff and students take the reaffirmation process. Indeed, we are very proud of all of the work that goes into this process,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Tim Todd.

“We are very proud of this new 10-year reaffirmed accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges for Murray State University,” Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson said. “To receive a second consecutive reaffirmation with no recommendations is significant and rare within the higher education landscape. I am grateful to our Office of the Provost for all of their hard work and dedication to ensuring a successful accreditation process, which is a multi-year effort and very rigorous in nature. Academic excellence and student success are vitally important at Murray State University, and these reaffirmations are not accidental in nature. I am thankful to our Board of Regents, administration, faculty, staff and students for their continued commitment and efforts in advancing this mission.”

Murray State University Promise offered as statewide tuition assistance program for qualifying first-time freshmen and new transfer students

Murray State University continues to offer the Murray State Promise as first-time freshmen and new transfer students throughout the state of Kentucky may be eligible for this tuition assistance program.

The program provides scholarship assistance to help pay for tuition and mandatory fees if the student’s combined federal, state, institutional and private gift aid total is less than the cost of Murray State’s tuition (12-15 hours).

Recognized nationally as one of America’s best college values, Murray State is the #1 “Best Value School” in the South region by *U.S. News and World Report* as part of the publication’s annual rankings.

Murray State has been recognized nationally for both quality and value by the following publications:

- *Washington Monthly* - “Best Bang for the Buck”
- *Wall Street Journal* - “Best Colleges in the United States”
- *Niche* - “Best Colleges in Kentucky”
- *Colleges of Distinction* - a “2024-25 Best College”

Murray State has also been recognized as a member of the FirstGen Forward Network and has achieved silver status by *Military Friendly* as a Military Friendly school for 2024-25.



Individuals are encouraged to learn more by visiting murraystate.edu/promise or

contacting the Scholarship Office at (800) 272-4678 or msu.scholarships@murraystate.edu

#1 BEST VALUE SCHOOL SOUTH REGION

– U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Dr. Aaron Thompson awarded an honorary doctorate at Murray State University's fall 2024 commencement

Dr. Aaron Thompson, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), was awarded an honorary doctorate from Murray State University as part of the fall 2024 commencement ceremony on Dec. 14.

A total of 727 degree applicants from 30 states and 16 countries comprised the graduating class including doctoral, specialist, master's, baccalaureate and associate degrees.

"I am thrilled to receive this honor from Murray State University, an institution that has distinguished itself for its commitment to academic excellence and student success,"

Thompson said. "I'm proud to call myself an honorary Racer."



Pictured from left to right: Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson, Murray State Board of Regents Chair Leon Owens, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education President Dr. Aaron Thompson and Murray State Board of Regents Vice Chair Dr. Robbie Fitch.

Senior Sara Morgan selected for Best Buddies International Young Leaders Council



Sara Morgan

Sara Morgan, a senior elementary education major from Louisville, Kentucky, has been selected to serve a two-year term on the Best Buddies International Young Leaders Council (YLC).

The Best Buddies International Young Leaders Council is a leadership program that connects student perspectives with the staff experience to support Best Buddies International initiatives.

Acceptance into the YLC is highly competitive, with acceptance rates ranging from 9% to 20%. This year, nine new members were selected from seven states to serve two-year terms, joining the existing council of 37 members representing 15 states and two countries.

Best Buddies, a student organization at Murray State University, works to promote

inclusion. Morgan currently serves as co-president of the Murray State chapter.

The YLC is dedicated to the education and engagement of student leaders, providing emerging leaders with unique opportunities for personal and professional growth. Morgan applied for the program in July 2024 and underwent a rigorous selection process before being notified of her acceptance in September.

Morgan's work will focus on increasing engagement on social media, with the goal of reaching a wider audience to introduce more people to Best Buddies and support other chapters.

"Best Buddies is what sparked my interest in pursuing a career in education," Morgan said. "Being able to take what I've learned through peer tutoring and Best Buddies and apply it in the classroom will help me create inclusive environments for students. I hope to either open an elementary chapter somewhere or support students with Individualized Educational Plans or 504 plans, particularly those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and help them succeed in the general education classroom."

Speech and Debate Union wins big at Southern Forensics League debate tournament

The Murray State University Speech and Debate Union locked out the final round of novice International Public Debate Association (IPDA) debate recently at the Southern Forensics League, meaning the team took home both first and second place.

Dr. Ryan Goke, director of the Speech and Debate Union, said this is the first time that Murray State has had such a dominant performance since fall 2017 and only the second time in program history.

Co-champions Caleb McCurren, a junior from Paducah, Kentucky, and Zack Benz, a freshman from Eureka, Missouri, won 11 of the 12 judges' ballots in their final two rounds, securing the top two spots at the tournament. Benz was undefeated in the preliminaries with a perfect 4-0 record. McCurren went 3-1. Both students won their quarterfinal rounds with a 3-0 decision, which resulted in Murray State closing out the final round. Out of the 20 total ballots, McCurren and Benz won 18 of them.

Benz also won champion speaker in novice IPDA debate.

Other notable awards include:

- Second place and top novice in communication analysis: Samuel Miller, a freshman from Island, Kentucky
- Fourth place in programmed oral interpretation: Zack Benz
- Fifth place in after dinner speaking: Caleb McCurren
- Fifth place novice IPDA debate speaker: Caleb McCurren

"These awards are especially impressive because this is Samuel, Zack and Caleb's first ever tournament," said Goke.



GOLD RUSH

JAN. 2025

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

FALL COMMENCEMENT
2024

52ND

Commencement ceremony

2,000+
graduates

85,000+
NKU alumni



NKU GRADUATES MORE THAN 2,000 STUDENTS DURING FALL 2024 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Northern Kentucky University honored **more than 2,000 graduates** over two ceremonies during the university's 52nd Commencement on Saturday, Dec. 14.

NKU professor Dr. Julie Olberding gave the commencement address at both ceremonies. Dr. Olberding is the director of NKU's Master of Public Administration program, and in 2024 received the Frank Sinton Milburn Outstanding Professor Award. Before Dr. Olberding began her career at NKU more than 20 years ago, she worked in government and nonprofit organizations. Her research focuses on nonprofit management, local government, community events, community development, economic development and student philanthropy.

Mikayla Griffith served as student speaker in the morning ceremony for the College of Education, College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Informatics. Mikayla graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree from the College of Education, specializing in middle school math and social studies. Harrison Perin served as student speaker in the afternoon ceremony for the Haile College of Business and the College of Health and Human Services. Harrison graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling.

There are now more than 85,000 Northern Kentucky University graduates living and working in every corner of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the globe.

COLLEGE CORNER

Northern Kentucky University's Haile College of Business has been ranked with **three Palmes of Excellence** by Eduniversal. This is Haile's first recognition by the organization and is a significant milestone for the college, marking Haile's commitment to leadership and international influence.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkuhailethreepalmes>



LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkufallcommencement24>



NORSE ATHLETICS HONORS FORMER COACH AND LONGTIME ATHLETICS DIRECTOR JANE MEIER

Longtime Northern Kentucky University coach and athletics director **Jane Meier** was honored Jan. 11 with a banner inside Truist Arena commemorating her contributions to Norse Athletics during her career, which spanned 31 years. Meier was named the head women's volleyball coach in 1978, and was later named head coach of both the softball and women's basketball teams. As a coach, she led the volleyball program to the 1981 NCAA Division II tournament and the 1985 Great Lakes Valley Conference championship—the first GLVC title in school history in any sport.

After a successful coaching career, Meier was named athletics director in 1988. Under her leadership, NKU experienced tremendous success. The Norse captured two NCAA Division II National Championships, 20 regional titles, and 61 GLVC regular-season or tournament championships, while making 76 NCAA tournament appearances, including 13 NCAA Division II Final Four appearances during her 21-year career.

Meier also helped transform the landscape of the Northern Kentucky University campus, as four new athletics facilities were constructed during her tenure, highlighted by The Bank of Kentucky Center (now Truist Arena) in November 2008, along with the NKU Soccer Stadium, Frank Ignatius Grein Softball Field, and the Joyce E. Yeager Tennis Complex.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkujanemeier>



THE SCOREBOARD

Northern Kentucky University men's basketball coach **Darrin Horn** reached a remarkable milestone on Saturday, Dec. 7, achieving his 100th win with NKU. The Norse men's basketball team defeated the IU Indianapolis Jaguars in a high energy 66-64 game on Saturday, Dec. 7. Trey Robinson also reached a milestone achievement against the Jaguars, becoming the 10th player in NKU's Division I era to score 1,000 career points. Robinson followed Sam Vinson, who reached 1,000 career points Dec. 3, against the University of Akron Zips.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkuhorn100wins>

BRIEFS

NKU FOUNDATION APPOINTS NEW LEADERSHIP TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Northern Kentucky University Foundation named new officers to the organization's board of directors, including Karen Finan as president, Kevin Gessner as vice president, Barbara Johnson as treasurer, Mary Zalla as secretary and Martin Butler as member-at-large. The university also welcomes new members Rich Boehne, Joe Don Cole, Lisa Desmarais, Ray Takigiku, Kevin Gusweiler and Alecia Webb-Edgington to the NKU Foundation Board.

"The Foundation continues to appoint strong leadership who are eager to build on NKU's momentum, and this group is no different," said incoming NKU Foundation Board President Karen Finan. "I am proud to be trusted with such an important position in the NKU community and I look forward to investing further in our students' success."

Established in 1970, the NKU Foundation was created to manage privately donated gifts for the university. The board's primary purpose is to advance NKU's student success by securing, investing and distributing private resources in support of the university. While state appropriations help fund NKU's basic operating budget, the NKU Foundation provides other revenue sources necessary for continued advancement.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkuboardofdirectors24>

FACULTY FOCUS

In the 1970s, Dr. Larry Giesmann began his tenure at Northern Kentucky University, bringing a passion for biology and an unwavering commitment to his students. This dedication has now culminated in the establishment of the Dr. Larry A. Giesmann Endowed Professorship in Biology, a significant contribution that will shape the future of NKU's College of Arts and Sciences. This endowed professorship, part of the Bucks for Brains Endowment Match Program through the Commonwealth of Kentucky, will provide NKU with the resources to attract and retain distinguished faculty members for years to come.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkularrygiesmann>

NKU APPOINTS MIKE BORCHERS AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Borchers, former superintendent of Ludlow Independent Schools, as special advisor to the president. In this part-time role, Borchers will work closely with NKU President Cady Short-Thompson to bolster the university's relationship with K-12 school districts throughout northern Kentucky, supporting a shared commitment to educational excellence and community engagement.

Borchers is an experienced leader in local K-12 education and brings a career-long focus on student achievement, educational innovation and community collaboration. He has consistently championed initiatives that equip students for both college and career success. His track record includes fostering environments that prioritize student and family support, leading to notable improvements in educational outcomes.

"We are thrilled to have Mike join us in this vital advisory role," said President Short-Thompson. "His depth of experience and strong regional ties will be invaluable as we work to strengthen bridges between NKU and northern Kentucky's K-12 community. Together, we are focused on creating innovative pathways that benefit students and families across our region."

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkumikeborchers>

ALUMNI NEWS

WELCOME TO THE

Alumni
Awards
DINNER & CELEBRATION
+ 2025 +

NKU ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2025 ALUMNI AWARDS

Northern Kentucky University will recognize five distinguished alumni and faculty at the annual Alumni Awards on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025. Gaby Batshoun, Joe Meyer, Julie Kirkpatrick, Jenny Collopy and Steve Newman will be honored for their outstanding achievements and distinguished service to the community at the Alumni Awards Dinner and Celebration.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkualumniawardwinners25>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANUARY 2025

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



\$2.5 MILLION GIFT FROM WRIGLEY MILLER TO SUPPORT UK COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Philanthropist and media entrepreneur Misdee Wrigley Miller, along with her husband James Miller, has donated \$2.5 million to the University of Kentucky's College of Communication and Information. This generous contribution will support the renovation and expansion of Pence Hall, the future home of the UK College of Communication and Information. The \$32 million project includes classrooms, studios and collaborative spaces designed to enhance learning and research. Construction is underway, with completion expected by summer 2025.





KENTUCKY HOMEPLACE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMONWEALTH

The Kentucky Homeplace Program, established in 1994 by the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health in Hazard, Kentucky, celebrated 30 years of service. This nationally recognized community health worker (CHW) program has assisted over 200,000 Kentuckians in accessing health and social services, providing more than 5.3 million services valued at more than \$416 million. Operating with an annual budget from the Kentucky Department of Public Health, it has demonstrated a return on investment exceeding \$11 for every dollar spent. Currently, 21 certified CHWs serve 26 counties in eastern Kentucky, aiding residents in navigating the health care system and managing chronic diseases.



UK'S BHATTACHARYYA NAMED 2024 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS FELLOW

Dibakar Bhattacharyya, Ph.D., known as "DB," has been named a 2024 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), the highest professional distinction for inventors. A professor in the University of Kentucky's Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering and director of the UK Center of Membrane Sciences, DB is renowned for his research on membranes for filtering and producing clean water. In his 50 years at UK, he has advised numerous graduate students and received multiple awards, including the Alan Michaels Award on Membrane Innovation in 2023. DB will be honored at the NAI 14th Annual Meeting in June 2025.



Dear Colleagues,

The new year always brings promise and excitement. At the University of Louisville, we have much to look forward to in 2025 and beyond.

For us, everything begins with our students. More than 1,300 of our best and brightest became alumni during an inspirational commencement ceremony in December. I am excited to see how their many talents will create a better world in the years to come.

Groundbreaking research is also a hallmark of the UofL experience. We recently received the single largest investment in clinical research in the university's history, allowing us to launch the Louisville Clinical and Translational Research Center to combat chronic conditions like cardiac disease, stroke and cancer that disproportionately affect Kentuckians in urban and rural areas. The National Institutes of Health will provide \$11.4 million for the effort, which will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by UofL.

Our strategic partners at the Humana Foundation continue their support with a \$6.75 million grant to enhance and expand scholarship and initiatives through the Humana Health Equity Research Center within UofL's School of Public Health and Information Sciences. This ensures the foundation's previous commitment to health equity work at UofL remains sustainable for the long term.

And as always, we are capitalizing on opportunities to collaborate with community partners to help our students and our community thrive. The university is working with all 16 Kentucky Community and Technical College System schools across the commonwealth to help students more easily transfer to UofL and find success as Cardinals. We look forward to being the top destination for transfer students from Kentucky and from outside of our state borders.

Our momentum is significant as we start the spring semester in 2025. We thank you for your ongoing support, which makes what we do possible.

Kim Schatzel, PhD

**President,
University of
Louisville**



PREMIER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

UofL and KCTCS partner to create new pathways for transfer students to earn degrees

More students across Kentucky can easily transfer to UofL and earn their degree with help from an expanded agreement with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).

Through the new agreement, UofL - who already partners with Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) and Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) - is working with all 16 KCTCS schools across the commonwealth to help students complete their general education requirements before they transfer. The university is also offering scholarships and providing additional financial aid and advising programming to help transfer students hit the ground running when they get to UofL. This includes the merit-based UofL KCTCS Scholarship, which awards \$1,000-\$3,000 to KCTCS students with a 3.25 cumulative GPA and 40 or more credit hours.

UofL provides advising, admissions counseling and one-on-one appointments to help KCTCS students navigate the transition. With over 200 degree programs, 13 of which are offered online, UofL is accessible to any student across all 16 KCTCS campuses.

UofL recently launched a satellite advising office on the ECTC campus with a full-time advisor readily available to help guide ECTC students completing UofL degrees. UofL previously established a similar office located at JCTC's downtown Louisville campus, with full-time advisors and benefits for JCTC students aiming to transfer to UofL.



UofL President Kim Schatzel and KCTCS President Ryan Quarles signed an expanded transfer agreement on Dec. 9, 2024.

REDEFINING STUDENT SUCCESS

UofL launches new entrepreneurship 'short course'

The University of Louisville's accelerated entrepreneurship training bootcamp has launched an even more accelerated program that can be completed in just three sessions.

LaunchIt, offered through the UofL Office of Research and Innovation as part of the Mid-South NSF I-Corps Hub, is an intensive course focused on Steve Blank's lean launchpad methodology, which helps innovators and entrepreneurs test their ideas or products in the real world and see if they have what it takes to stick. The regular eight-week program is hybrid and offered in spring and fall, while the new three-session 'short course' is offered virtually and in summer.



December Commencement

The University of Louisville's December 2024 Commencement ceremony for August and December degree candidates took place Friday, Dec. 13, at the KFC Yum! Center. Degrees were conferred on nearly 1,340 students.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POWERHOUSE



UofL leaders and researchers announced the single largest investment in clinical research in the university's history on Jan. 10, 2025.

UofL secures \$24M to develop next generation of clinical researchers

The University of Louisville has secured \$24 million to train the next generation of clinical researchers and drive work that can save and improve lives. The funding includes \$11.7 million from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of General Medical Sciences, matched dollar-for-dollar by UofL, and marks the single largest investment in clinical research in the university's history.

With this funding, UofL will launch the Louisville Clinical and Translational Research Center (LCTRC) — a statewide effort that will transform the university's clinical research infrastructure and find meaningful solutions to combat chronic conditions like cardiac disease, stroke and cancer that disproportionately affect Kentuckians in urban and rural areas alike. The goal is to foster the seamless transition of research findings from the laboratory to patient care.

LCTRC is funded through the NIH IDeA Clinical & Translational Research Development (CTR-D) Award program, meant to help institutions build research expertise and

infrastructure to support research on diseases and health challenges faced by the populations they serve. CTR-D grants are considered highly competitive.

That impact will be far-reaching. LCTRC will enable UofL to launch a series of \$75,000 to \$125,000 research grants aimed at kickstarting new research projects that help early career and established researchers gather the data needed to secure more NIH or other agency investment.

To train highly competitive, next generation clinical and translational researchers, LCTRC will develop two key programs: Dean's Scholars, which will pay medical students to spend a full year doing research, and Presidential Scholars, which buys six months of faculty members' time to do research. These programs will also provide them with additional professional development opportunities, including partnering those researchers with experienced mentors who can help them take their work to the next level.

LCTRC will also work to expand clinical and translational research infrastructures and develop essential research tools. This includes enhanced research relationships with major health systems, including UofL Health in Louisville and Owensboro Health in western Kentucky. UofL has a long-standing academic partnership with the latter, including a ACGME accelerated family medicine residency program based at Owensboro Health, and an Accelerated Second-Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, where UofL resident physicians and students engage in hands-on clinical experiences in Owensboro.

The new LCTRC funding will double UofL's clinical trials staff, enabling the university to support more clinical trials at UofL Health, its Owensboro Health rural affiliate, the Louisville Robley Rex VA Medical Center and Norton Healthcare. It also will support 'citizen science' projects, giving regular people an opportunity to engage in research backed by grant funding and with mentorship from academic experts.

UofL research shows girls' shifting views on women in science

New University of Louisville research shows young girls increasingly see women as knowledgeable about science, a shift over the past few decades that could signal a move toward gender parity in STEM fields.



In a recent study published in *Developmental Psychology*, researchers Khushboo Patel, Judith Danovitch, and Nick Noles showed 257 preschool and elementary school-aged children pictures of different adults and asked them who would know more about science and from whom they would want to learn.

While other factors, such as the adults' race, didn't seem to play any significant role in the kids' opinions, gender did — they overwhelmingly chose the adult who had the same gender as them. Understanding the cause of that shift could help address the gender gap in STEM — or, science, technology, engineering and math.

UofL receives \$6.75M grant from Humana Foundation

The University of Louisville continues its partnership with the Humana Foundation through a transformative \$6.75 million grant to enhance health equity research. The funding will enhance and expand scholarship and initiatives through the Humana Health Equity Research Center within the School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

Led by Dean Katie Cardarelli and Ted Smith, professor of environmental medicine representing the Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute, the center will advance interdisciplinary research and foster collaboration across multiple fields and deepen understanding of social determinants of health. By tackling systemic barriers to health equity, the center aims to foster best-in-class community engagement and solution-oriented research that aligns with national health equity standards.

NEWS FOR THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

JANUARY 2025



College of Health and Human Services hosts ribbon cutting for Community Health Sciences Complex

Western Kentucky University celebrated the opening of the WKU College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Community Health Sciences Complex with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house on November 15.

The CHHS Community Health Sciences Complex houses several applied research centers focused on public health, child welfare, healthy aging, workplace health, rural health, and more. The complex will play a key role in advancing community health initiatives and addressing critical issues in health and wellness.

WKU President Timothy C. Caboni, said, “As we position WKU to move to an R2 institution, spaces like this will prove essential in supporting Ph.D. students and increasing research productivity, which, in turn, will increase the recruitment and retention of faculty and students.”

CHHS Dean Tania Basta said, “I am thrilled that our vision for an interdisciplinary applied-learning space for our faculty and students has come to fruition. As many of you know, it is often difficult to invite community members to participate in research or receive health services at our main campus because parking is limited. Our Community Health Sciences Complex allows for community access with available parking and transportation on the city and campus bus lines.”

Key Centers and Resources within the Complex:

- **LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research (LCCWEAR)**
Focuses on child welfare education and research, including a Child Welfare Analytics Collaborative, Training Resource Center, and an Integrated Family Trauma Treatment Clinic.
- **Center for Applied Science in Health and Aging (CASHA)**
CASHA facilitates applied research to enhance health and vitality in the aging community to advance research, policy, practice, and program development. Members of CASHA collaborate with community and university partners to address aging-related needs, and secure funding through grants, contracts, partnerships, and commercialization.
- **Center for Environmental and Workplace Health (CEWH)**
Focuses on improving health outcomes in environmental and workplace settings.
- **Institute for Rural Health**
Dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of rural and under-served populations in Kentucky.
- **WKU CPR Training Center**
Provides life-saving training and certification for students, faculty, and the broader community.
- **EMPOWER Lab**
Enhancing Motherhood and Pregnancy Outcomes for Women through Exercise Research



WE MADE THE LIST!

2024 Military Times: Best for Vets

Western Kentucky University Captures Top Spot for Vets in Kentucky

Western Kentucky University has earned a spot on the 2024 Military Times Best for Vets: Colleges rankings, coming in at 37th overall, first in Kentucky, third in Appalachia, and 27th among public colleges.

The Military Times rankings are the largest and most comprehensive annual list recognizing institutions dedicated to supporting military service members and veterans in their educational journeys. This year, 304 colleges and universities nationwide were selected based on their veteran-focused programs, resources, and commitments.

Institutions are evaluated through survey responses and public data from the Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

WKU's placement at the top spot in Kentucky and its strong regional rankings highlight the university's ongoing commitment to serving the military community. With robust veteran-focused programs, like Military Student Services and Veterans Upward Bound, WKU provides the resources and support needed to help veterans succeed both academically and personally.



WKU students first, third in Hearst photo competition

WKU students finished first and third in the first photo competition of the **2024-2025 Hearst Journalism Awards Program**.

Emilee Arnold, a senior from Alvaton, won the **Photojournalism News and Features Competition**, received a \$3,000 award and qualified for the National Photojournalism Championship in June. Dominic Di Palermo, a senior from Saint Charles, Illinois, finished third and received a \$1,500 award. WKU's School of Media & Communication receives matching awards.

After the first of two photo competitions, WKU is in first place in the Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition and is followed by The University of Kentucky, University of Missouri, University of Montana and Ohio University.

Often called "The Pulitzers of college journalism," the 65th annual Hearst Journalism Awards Program offers 14 competitions annually including four writing, two photo, one audio, two television, four multimedia and one podcast awarding up to \$700,000 in scholarships, matching grants and stipends. Currently, there are 105 universities of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication with accredited undergraduate journalism programs eligible to participate in the Hearst competitions.

WKU's School of Media & Communication continued its tradition of national success in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program with a sixth-place finish in the 2024 Overall Intercollegiate Competition. WKU has placed in the top eight overall for 31 straight years with four overall championships in 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2018, has won the Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition 29 times in the past 35 years and has won the Intercollegiate Multimedia Competition nine times since it was added in 2010.

WKU students have won 17 Hearst individual national championships since 1985 — photojournalism in 1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1996, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014 and 2016; multimedia in 2015, 2023 and 2024; writing in 1985; and radio news in 2006.



(Photo by Kentucky Lantern/ McKenna Horsley)

Legislature expected to act on SJR 179 to advance KCTCS

The General Assembly is expected to act upon a sweeping reform package designed to improve and advance KCTCS for greater student success and service to all Kentuckians, while remaining nimble and responsive to the changing workforce needs of the state.

The Interim Joint Committee on Education got its first look at the recommendations in early December when KCTCS President Ryan Quarles presented to the group. He pledged to work with legislators on a nonpartisan bill that “achieves the support of everybody in this room, so we can say, in the first time in 25 years, that we’ve reset KCTCS,” said Quarles.

“We’re proud of our work, and we welcome your feedback. We know there’s going to be some fluidity in the legislative process, and we welcome that as well,” said Quarles.

The framework for the recommendations include:

- Academic programming and training offerings, including the quality of credentials and program relevancy.
- A comprehensive statewide KCTCS workforce plan which may include financial and academic supports, comprehensive career counseling, and experiential learning elements.
- The KCTCS geographic footprint, including but not limited to the need for mergers and consolidations.
- Preserve college-level accreditation versus single system accreditation.
- Governance reform, including the KCTCS Board of Regents and the 16 college boards of directors.
- The KCTCS funding model and its adequacy, including state appropriations, existing performance funding, the funding of the system office, and modern outcome-based funding structures.
- Tuition rates, with a commitment to ensuring affordability and return on investment.
- The personnel system for KCTCS employees.
- Effectiveness and affordability of dual credit course offerings.
- Transferability of associate degrees to four-year institutions.
- Outdated or conflicting statutory language.

The full recommendations and the report are available on [the system website](#).

KCTCS and UofL partner to create new transfer pathways to bachelor’s degrees

KCTCS continues its quest to form transfer partnerships to provide greater access and additional opportunities for students to continue their education and fulfill their career goals by transferring to a four-year university.

In December, KCTCS and UofL entered into a new agreement whereby UofL will work with all 16 KCTCS schools across the commonwealth to help students complete their general education requirements before they transfer. UofL was already working with Elizabethtown Community and Technical College and Jefferson Community and Technical College.

“At KCTCS, we’re focused on providing access to education to all Kentuckians. Our students come from all types of backgrounds and experiences, and we prioritize providing them with every resource they need to obtain a higher education,” said Ryan Quarles, KCTCS president.



KCTCS ranks 4th in nation for 6-year completion rate gains

KCTCS is proud to announce a remarkable 3.6 percentage point gain in our 6-year completion rates over the past year. This improvement ranks us 4th among community colleges nationwide, a testament to our dedication to fostering student success and achievement.

In a related metric, KCTCS' 6-year completion rate of 51.0% for the 2018 cohort ranks us 10th nationally, only the second time we've been in the top 10.

Source: National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center.



KCTCS spring enrollment climbs 7.7%

KCTCS has welcomed 63,973 students so far this spring, a gain of 4,580 students or 7.7% compared to last year at this time. Increases were also reported in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, up 2,979 students or 8.3%.

Thirteen colleges are reporting increases in headcount compared to last year, with the most significant gains at Gateway (14.2%), Henderson (13.5%), Elizabethtown (12.3%), Madisonville (11.9%), Somerset (11.5%), and Bluegrass (11.1%). Similarly, 14 KCTCS colleges are experiencing growth in FTE, with Gateway and Henderson showing the highest

increases, at 15.7% and 14.8%, respectively over the prior year.

KCTCS is also experiencing strong growth for students new to KCTCS -- credential-seeking students are up 14.8%; workforce/non-degree students are up 14.3%; and high school students are up 14.0%. Overall, new enrollment at KCTCS is up 14.4% compared to Spring 2024.

When evaluating headcount and FTE in programs that align with Kentucky's targeted industry sectors, gains are occurring across the board, as shown in the chart below.

Targeted Industry Sector	Headcount % Increase	FTE % Increase
Advanced Manufacturing	8.9%	9.1%
Business & IT Services	3.7%	5.2%
Construction	16.8%	15.0%
Healthcare	17.7%	18.7%
Transportation & Logistics	4.1%	1.3%

Madisonville Community College president named finalist for AACC Award of Excellence

Madisonville Community College President Cynthia Kelley has been named a finalist for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) annual Awards of Excellence in the Advancing Institutional Equity and Belonging category.

Each year the Awards of Excellence underscore the association's priorities and bring national visibility to promising practices among its member colleges.

Winners will be announced at the Awards of Excellence Gala on April 15 during the AACC Annual April 12-16 in Nashville, Tennessee.

KENTUCKY
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL
COLLEGE SYSTEM

KCTCS Advocacy Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025
Capitol Annex Room 125
11:30 am – 1:15 pm

Join the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the No. 1 provider of workforce training in the state, to learn more about how its 16 colleges are impacting Kentucky's labor shortage and supporting communities through open access to affordable education across the Commonwealth.





Independent colleges play vital role in communities, economy



Mason Dyer
AIKCU President

I was pleased to spend some time with Council members in November on the campus of Bellarmine University, where the vitality of our sector was on full display.

As I reported then, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities play vital roles in the commonwealth — by filling their missions as institutions of access, opportunity, and excellence for students, by helping prepare Kentucky's skilled workforce, and by serving as anchor institutions in communities ranging from rural Knott County to downtown Louisville.

While we don't talk about it as often, these institutions are also major employers and contributors to the economic health of Kentucky.

It's not quite ready for publication at the time of this writing, but within days we will release a report detailing the impressive economic impact of our sector.

Let's just say that the numbers reinforce our long-held belief that the investment in state aid for students attending independent colleges and universities represent one of the best rates of return on investment for the commonwealth.

We'll make sure you receive a copy of our economic impact report when it's available.

Thank you for your service to Kentucky students and to all of postsecondary education in Kentucky.

AIKCU members receive funds for healthcare summer programs

Six Kentucky independent colleges and universities have been awarded \$235,418 by the Council on Postsecondary Education to hold summer residential programs on campus focused on healthcare-related fields. The AIKCU members receiving funds for the summer bridge programs are Bellarmine University, Campbellsville University, Centre College, Midway University, Spalding University, and the University of Pikeville.

AIKCU members received half of the 12 grant awards distributed by CPE. Grants were funded by federal, state, and local fiscal recovery funds to help address Kentucky's shortage of qualified healthcare professionals, especially in rural areas, by allowing prospective college students to explore healthcare careers while gaining valuable exposure to college life.



Centre College's Summer Health Immersion Program - SHIP - is one of the summer bridge programs supported by CPE grants.

The summer programs will include hands-on activities, shadowing opportunities, or career workshops through partnerships with area healthcare providers. Postsecondary institutions are encouraged to include underrepresented students, such as low-income or first-generation students, in these programs.

"Kentucky's independent colleges and universities are dedicated to student success and to producing graduates ready to enter the workforce in key areas, like healthcare," said Mason Dyer, AIKCU president.

He added, "We know that summer bridge programs work by providing students the opportunity to jump start their way to positive outcomes, and we're thankful to CPE for supporting these efforts on AIKCU member campuses."

Information from CPE news release, Jan. 8, 2025

Brescia University names Madison Silvert as next president

AIKCU congratulates Madison Silvert, J.D., who has been named the next president of Brescia University in Owensboro.



Madison Silvert, J.D.
Incoming President

Silvert is chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education. He is also an alumnus of AIKCU member Centre College.

We also want to recognize current Brescia President Fr. Larry Hostetter on his pending retirement.



Fr. Larry Hostetter
Retiring President

We appreciate his 18 years of service to Brescia and to independent higher education in Kentucky.