

Mission and Role Statement

Utah State University

The academic advantages of a large university, together with the friendliness of a small college, are offered at Utah State University. With a student body of more than 23,000, USU recognizes that the needs of the individual are of major importance, and many programs have been established to give the student the optimum of individual attention.

With 43 departments in seven academic colleges, more than 200 undergraduate options, a School of Graduate Studies, University Extension, and several research programs, Utah State University offers an excellent opportunity for students to study a wide range of subjects.

USU was founded in 1888 as part of the public educational system of Utah and operates under the constitution and laws of the state. It belongs to the family of institutions known as land-grant universities, which had their origin in 1862. The institution was originally called the Agricultural College of Utah, later becoming Utah State Agricultural College. The state legislature designated the name change to Utah State University in 1957.

A 16-member State Board of Regents governs the Utah state system of higher education. This board has the responsibility for state-wide master planning for higher education, assignment of roles to the several institutions in the state system, and control of operating and capital budgets for the institutions. USU has a 10-member Board of Trustees which is responsible for implementing the assigned roles, including the appointment of personnel and the enactment of rules and governing regulations.

Utah State University is one of two Tier One institutions in the state, the other being the University of Utah. Both universities are categorized as public research universities.

USU is governed by the State Board of Regents and accredited by Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, American Psychological Association, American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, American Music Therapy Association, AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, Utah State Board of Education—Teacher Education Program, Council on Rehabilitation Education, Accrediting Board of Engineering and Technology, American Society of Landscape Architects, Commission on Accreditation—Council on Social Work Education, American Chemical Society, Society of American Foresters, National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission, Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), American Dietetic Association, Foundation for Interior Design Education Research, National Association of Schools of Music, Utah State Board of Vocational Education, and the Society for Range Management. USU is a land-grant and a Carnegie Foundation “Doctoral/Research University-Extensive” institution. Credit earned at USU is fully transferable to other universities and colleges in the United States of America.

University Mission Statement

The mission of Utah State University is to be one of the nation's premier student-centered land-grant and space-grant universities by fostering the principle that academics come first; by cultivating diversity of thought and culture; and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement.

University Role Statement

Utah State University fulfills a unique role in the Utah System of Higher Education as the state's land-grant and space-grant university. The land-grant designation makes Utah State responsible for statewide programs in agriculture, business, education, engineering, natural resources, sciences, family life, 4-H youth, and the traditional core of liberal learning: humanities, arts, and social sciences. The University gives particular emphasis to programs involving the interaction of land, people, and the environment.

Utah State University is also a “Doctoral/Research University-Extensive” institution, as designated by the Carnegie Corporation, meaning that, in selected areas historically associated with its designation as a land-grant and space-grant university, it provides doctoral and master's level education and supports and expects of its faculty significant research efforts. The University offers a broad array of doctoral and master's level degrees in areas appropriate to its mission. Hands-on learning is also a hallmark of its undergraduate programs.

As a space-grant institution, Utah State University plays a preeminent role in the development of the sciences and engineering associated with research and teaching about outer space. This includes the mission of the Space Dynamics Laboratory and its related components on the Innovation Campus.

Utah State develops knowledge as part of its discovery mission, as reflected in research generated by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the Utah Water Research Laboratory, and disseminates this knowledge through technical assistance provided by Cooperative Extension in each of the state's 29 counties. The land-grant mission also means that Utah State delivers degrees through Continuing Education programs, whether through on-site or technologically delivered, time-enhanced methods throughout the state.

Taken together, these designations as a land-grant and space-grant university also mean that Utah State University has a leading role in economic development of the state and the region. These goals are realized through the effective transfer of research from the laboratory to commercial enterprises. To that end, Utah State University has an aggressive position in the identification of intellectual property, the commercialization of new technologies, and the development of research programs that will be of benefit to the state. USU also brings government, business, and education together on its Innovation Campus with the goal of stimulating economic development.