

University of Wyoming

Mission and philosophy

As the only university established by the state, the residents and the University of Wyoming have enjoyed a long, unique and beneficial relationship. To continue this relationship and to serve the educational, cultural and economic needs of the state and nation, the mission of the university is to provide teaching, scholarship and outreach programs that compare favorably with programs at the leading land-grant research universities in the nation. In addition, to promote development of the whole person, the university will provide a diverse array of superior co-curricular activities, including cultural, international, athletic and student-life programs.

Future leadership

The university will attract capable students who will provide future leadership for the state and nation, and it will be particularly attentive to the needs of Wyoming students, members of underrepresented groups and the gifted. The university is dedicated to promoting an environment of excellence and achievement, which encourages the full personal development of those it serves and of those who serve the university. To meet this goal, the university will preserve, interpret, create and transmit knowledge in an atmosphere of free inquiry and expression. This environment, reflecting America's rich multicultural character at its best, is intended to stimulate growth of mind and body, inspire the spirit, and promote fulfilling careers and life-long contributions to the state and nation. To help assure programmatic excellence, the university will attract, develop and retain outstanding faculty and staff; provide superior library, laboratory and computer facilities; and engage in ongoing planning to balance resources and enrollments.

The specific elements of the university's mission include:

- **Excellent baccalaureate instruction in a broad array of programs:** Undergraduate education will be based on successful completion of college preparatory work in high school and coordination with both secondary education and the community colleges. Each student must master the fundamental concepts and applications of at least one major, and all majors will be based on the solid foundation of a general studies program. University graduates will understand the universities rich human heritage; comprehend differing methods used by the arts, humanities and sciences in creating that heritage; develop the ability to make ethical and critical judgments; and have facility in using language and other forms of symbolic expression.
- **Graduate programs of recognized excellence in disciplinary and inter-disciplinary fields:**

General information

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Other locations

Archer, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Gillette, Jackson, Lander, Pavilion, Powell, Riverton, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Torrington, Wind River Reservation, Elk Mountain, Jelm Mountain, Red Buttes, and Grand Teton National Park; offices in all 23 counties

Year established

1886

Statutory references

Wyoming Constitution (1890) Article 7, Sections 15 through 17; W.S. 21-16-201 and 21-16-202, 21-16-901 through 21-16-904, and 21-17-101 through 21-17-450

Organization structure

Board of Trustees, President's Office, Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, Information Technology, Institutional Advancement, Research, and Student Affairs (see chart for details)

Clients served

Enrolled undergraduate, graduate and non-degree students, continuing education participants, high school students, alumni, business assistance clients, community assistance clients, clients requesting information, agricultural assistance clients, research clients, health-care patients, cultural programs patrons, athletics fans and other Wyoming residents

Budget information

General fund	Section I	\$100,923,863
Federal funds	Section I	\$2,457,809

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Particular emphasis will be placed on faculty strength in teaching, research and creative activity; critical mass of faculty and students; student quality; compatibility with other established university programs; and contributions to the state's and nation's cultural, scientific, social and economic needs.

- **Outstanding basic and applied research and creative activity:** Research and creative activity cannot be separated from teaching. Research and creative activity promote instructional excellence through developing new knowledge and techniques, allowing new information and perspectives to be shared swiftly in the classroom, and introducing students to emerging fields. Moreover, excellent research and creative activity result in regional and national recognition that enhances the value of a University of Wyoming degree. To advance outstanding instruction, contribute new knowledge, and place the university among the nation's leading land-grant research institutions, the university will identify and promote disciplinary and interdisciplinary emphasis areas in research and creative activity.
- **Superior outreach and extension activities:** The university will provide coordinated service to the people of Wyoming through credit and non-credit instruction, life-long learning, professional and cultural programming. As part of outreach, the university will disseminate widely the results of its basic and applied research and, when appropriate, direct research to meet economic, social and cultural challenges faced by the state and nation.

Results of outcomes

Because the ACT Student Opinion Survey is conducted in even-numbered years, no new data on student satisfaction with academic, support and administrative services are available for FY01.

Goal I, Teaching

Excellence in academics is the university's prime objective. The university has made significant progress in implementing its major planning document, the *Academic Plan, 1999-2004*. At the end of FY01, the university has completely or partially addressed 127 of the 168 action items identified in the plan (described in the *Academic Plan Implementation Report Card, 2001*). Areas of priority for FY01 included:

- reviewing the university studies core curriculum and the college degree requirements,
- enhancing outcomes assessment,
- promoting internationalization,
- reviewing scholarship support,
- discussing the creation of a public policy institute,

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Other	Section II	\$33,687,755
	Section I	\$56,225,946
	Section II	\$61,272,142
Total		\$254,567,515

- analyzing tuition administration,
- updating the compressed video system,
- reorganizing the data analysis units,
- strengthening energy-related research, and
- broadening the scope of the UW Cooperative Extension Service.

Completed documents and draft reports are on the UW Academic Affairs Website, <www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs>, or in the office of academic affairs.

All academic programs — including the university and some of the professional colleges — are evaluated on an established 10-year accreditation schedule. In FY01, accreditation was maintained for 100 percent (cumulative) of the university's 26 "accreditable" programs. UW students surpassed national licensure or certification examination pass rates in 82 percent of the 11 exams (some scores and national norms are not yet available). Ninety-one percent (39, cumulative) of the 43 academic units began implementing their individual plans for assessing student learning.

Student recruitment

Student recruitment, retention, timely graduation and access to academic programs are of primary importance to the institution and the state. Under new leadership in FY01, new recruitment funding was provided, a Denver recruiting office was established, and a new position developed to recruit and retain Native Indian students. A new system of integrated marketing was developed. Recruitment programs were expanded. On-campus events included "UW Discovery Days" for prospective students, an "I'm Going to College" program for fourth- through sixth-graders and parents, and "Minority Higher Education Days." Off-campus recruitment programs included more "UW Information Nights" throughout the state, the new "Application Days" at local high schools and a "UW Student Voices" statewide tour. High school and community college colleges, TRIO outreach staff, trustees, foundation and alumni board members, state legislators and members of the Latter Day Saints community partnered with these students and staff. Overall enrollments increased to 11,743 (standardized at the end of the fall semester). There were 2,000 new students (beginning of the fall semester) and 2,284 outreach students (end of the fall semester) — both increases from FY00.

Retention and graduation rates

The FY00 freshman-to-sophomore retention rate (78 percent) showed continued improvement. Six-

year graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen increased to 52 percent in FY00. (Retention and graduation data for FY01 will not be available until spring 2002.) The UW Faculty Senate has assumed the review of the general education program (university studies); its recommendations will be presented to the administration and to the board of trustees in the upcoming year. The times-to-degree for graduate and professional students were at the national average in law (three years); but UW doctoral students took longer to complete degrees than other counterparts at other public universities (8.1 years, compared to a national average of 7.3 years).

Outreach school

The UW Outreach School has worked diligently to provide more education to site-bound students at various levels of higher education. The school completed a comprehensive, statewide educational needs assessment to quantify the demand for off-campus and online baccalaureate and graduate-level degree and certificate programs. In FY01, the first students completed the new Certificate in Land Surveying, which is offered nationwide to experienced employees who desire to complete qualifications to be certified as land surveyors. A new Real Estate Certificate Program was developed for delivery completely online. A new Certificate in Early Childhood Administration was developed during FY01. The UW College of Nursing converted both the RN/BSN completion and the master's of science in nursing (Nurse Educators' Option) to statewide, regional and nationwide online delivery. Two new outreach degree programs have been developed — the masters' of social work and the master's degree in kinesiology and health. Online enrollments are expected to exceed 1,000 in fall 2001, an all-time high.

UW faculty have continued to receive national recognition for teaching and research accomplishments. A third member of the faculty was elected to the prestigious National Academy. To support the development for outstanding teaching, the UW Center for Teaching excellence introduced a project called the "inVISIBLE college" so faculty could share their experience on topics such as patterns of learning, learning Webs, writing portfolios, learning communities online, writing instruction, assessment of learning and evaluation of faculty effectiveness in the classroom.

Goal II, Research

Research, scholarship and creative activity are essential roles of a university with a land-grant mission. With the revamping of the national Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classification system, UW was selected for the highest research classification (out of nine categories), "Doctoral/Research Universities Extensive." Universities selected for this top tier of the Carnegie classification give high priority to research, support

a wide range of undergraduate degree programs, and demonstrate a commitment to graduate education through the doctoral degree. UW is probably America's smallest university holding Carnegie's top research classification, a testament to the hard work and commitment that UW faculty members give to education and quality research.

The university also continued to set new records in external funding — \$47.5 million in contracts and grants for FY01. Among the grants, the UW Colleges of Health Sciences and Agriculture received a \$4.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study methods of changing health behaviors in rural communities. It is a collaborative effort involving medical education programs and Cooperative Extension Services at UW, the University of Idaho and Montana State University. Two other very large NIH grants involve one group of UW faculty studying the biological effects of nitric oxide in the human body (\$6.9 million) and another examining physiological stressors — such as high salt intake and a decrease in oxygen availability — that can contribute to the progression of cardiovascular disease. The university received nearly \$1.5 million from a NASA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant to fund several ongoing research projects, including the Wyoming Infrared Observatory and the Wyoming King Air research aircraft. Only 19 states received such funding.

More than 2,305 undergraduate students took advantage of UW's research expertise and worked one-on-one with outstanding faculty on independent study and research projects.

Goal III, Campus environment

A variety of services support and enhance students' academic experiences: technological progress, administrative efficiency and effectiveness, the quality of the buildings and grounds, and the scheduled social and cultural activities. To supplement the ***Academic Plan***, in FY01, ***Support Services Plans*** were developed by the divisions of administration and finance, contracts and grants accounting, information technology, institutional advancement, intercollegiate athletics, office of the general counsel, University Libraries, university public relations and student affairs <<http://uw-docs.uwyo.edu/support-plan/default1.htm>>.

In FY01, following a full consideration of the submitted plans, including reviews provided by teams of individual external consultants, the university president charged the divisions to move ahead with specific decisions relating to more than 250 action items identified by the units. His response to the units' plans is at <<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/president/presout.htm>>.

To create a healthier, more supportive environment, the university continued to make progress on implementing the ***President's Task Force on Greek Life Report*** and the ***Alcohol Initiatives Report***. The

“Safe Ride” transportation system was funded and implemented by the student government.

During FY01, the UW Facilities Planning Team began work on short- and long-term plans for campus-wide facilities and land use. The **Capital Facilities Plan 2001-2006**, a document prioritizing university needs and budgetary requirements was presented to the trustees in September 2001. Projects for FY01 have included renovations of labs, instructional facilities, and office space, as well as American with Disabilities Act needs. During FY01, critical building renovations were undertaken or begun: Wyoming Union renovation, fine arts studio addition, Rochelle Athletic Center construction and the Washakie Residence Hall Complex renovation. Improvement of campus grounds has continued. Furthermore, to help ease perennial parking problems, a **Campus Parking and Transportation Plan** was developed, including a cost analysis.

Technology

Many advances were made in both academic and administrative computer and telecommunications support. The university installed one high-speed Ethernet connection for every pillow in the residence halls, giving students high-speed access to computing facilities and the Internet. Fiber optic connections were installed to all campus fraternity and sorority houses to provide the residents with similar high-speed capability. A small number of trial wireless networks were deployed around campus. Student email access was implemented, so students can log on to a UW email account from anywhere in the world. Students now have the ability to receive course grades through the Web or touch-tone telephone. Most Laramie students, faculty and staff can now obtain high-speed DSL remote services from home to the campus and Internet. More than 100 unique computer software applications were installed in student computer labs. A new IBM mainframe was installed to support the UW Student Information System. Numerous online student services were enhanced, including an admissions Web application, financial aid application status, and course, registration. Faculty were provided with the ability to electronically list and email the students in classes.

The university worked with Front Range Gigapop to advance Internet performance and provide partial redundant access and increased stability. Virus protection was implemented on the central UW email gateway. The systems management server deployed several administrative desktop applications. A secure Web server was developed to process secure financial transactions for departments. The university's new VISA procurement card for departmental purchases was implemented in FY01. Increased training in computer applications was offered.

Former levels

In FY01, UW continued to surpass former levels for total private gifts and pledges, exceeding \$25 million. After four years of intensive planning, the UW DISTINCTION Campaign is in a two-year “leadership phase” from July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2002. The Honorable Alan K. Simpson is the campaign chair and John Clay is vice chair. More than 50 volunteers are involved. A \$30 million fund of state dollars (to match private gifts of \$50,000 or more) was established by the state Legislature in the 2001 session.

In FY00, the proportion of expenditures used for instruction and academic support was 45 percent; the national average for public doctoral universities is also 45 percent (data for FY01 will not be available until spring 2002).

According to calculations from administration and finance, the university's deferred maintenance rating is in the “poor” range, according to a formula used by the physical plant.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association certification decision is expected in fall 2001. In FY00 (data for FY01 will not be available until spring 2002), the student-athletes graduated slightly below the average for other UW students (51 percent for the student-athletes, 52 percent for the overall undergraduate student body).

Goal IV

Public service: Public service to the residents of Wyoming continues to be an important role for the university.

To facilitate the advancement of Wyoming students from their associate's of arts degrees at Wyoming's community colleges to a bachelor's program at the university, UW signed an articulation agreement with all seven community colleges to establish a common core curriculum.

UW completed the expansion of Wyoming Public Radio throughout Wyoming and a RealAudio server was implemented for Wyoming Public Radio broadcasts.

Gov. Jim Geringer established the Wyoming Statistical Analysis Center (WySAC) at the university.

UW worked with the state to provide reciprocal computer-disaster recovery services.

In 2000-01, the number of faculty and staff research contracts that support specific state needs was 125. The university continues to organize conferences, workshops, non-credit continuing education, cultural programs and informational presentations. In FY01, 97 percent of the conference participants who responded to the assessment surveys said they would “recommend the [Outreach School] program to others.” The university continues to play a prominent role in Wyoming's economic development efforts. The Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIR), the Mid-America Manufacturing

and Technology Center (MAMTC), the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), the Wyoming Research Products Center (RPC), the Women's Business Center (WBC) and the Cooperative Extension Centers (CEC) have continued to assist Wyoming businesses. On different surveys, business clients assisted by SBDC and MAMTC reported satisfaction with the services received at 92 percent (SBDC) and 97 percent (MAMTC). The RPC has heightened the level in the transfer of technology — disclosures under management, patent applications filed and license/options on UW technology. GRO-Biz was developed as a program to assist businesses in marketing their goods and services to federal, state and local governments. The university has worked successfully in partnership with the Wyoming Business Council. A Wyoming Business Technology Incubator is in the planning phase. A proposal for a hotel-conference center on university property in Laramie has been developed; it will be refined during the upcoming year in collaboration with a community real estate development firm. The response from community and state residents has been favorable. To help entrepreneurs take advantage of modern business techniques, a master's of science program in eBusiness was launched in June 2001.

Strengthen legislative, public relations

In addition, the president makes annual efforts to strengthen legislative and public relations by making annual visits to the legislators with updated information about the university. Furthermore, administrators and faculty make presentations to civic organizations in Wyoming communities. Enhanced communication between the university and its constituents takes place through opinion editorial pieces in the newspapers, newsletters and the recently created *UWyo Magazine*.

Strategic plan changes

During the summer of 2001, the governor agreed to allow the university to submit its ***Academic Plan 1999-2004*** as its strategic plan, rather than to rework the format into that specified for other state agencies. The plan serves as the blueprint for the future of the university. A new plan will be completed in FY04. The current plan is on the university's Website at: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/Acad_Plan_Implementation/Acad_Plan_Implementation.htm>.

- The primary goals of the plan are:
1. to increase enrollment and access;
 2. to revise the curriculum;
 3. to focus for distinction; and
 4. to provide leadership for Wyoming's future.

As one form of accountability, an ***Academic Plan Report Card*** is published annually to document the cumulative progress on the 168 action items in the

plan. To date, the university has completely or partially addressed 127 of the 168 action items. The report card is posted on the UW Academic Affairs Website, <www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs>.

With the governor's permission, granted in the summer of 1997, no output measures are currently being reported. The university will, however, continue to provide performance data on outcome measures with its annual report. The university is currently discussing the current list of performance measures to decide whether a revised list would make the information more meaningful, both on and off campus.

University of Wyoming organization chart

