

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.

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 under-represented 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 multi-cultural 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 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.

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.

General Information

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Other locations

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

Year established

1886 (Territorial decision)

Statutory references

Confirmed in Article 7, Section 15, Wyoming Constitution (189 0); W.S. 21-17-101; W.S. 28-1-115 (f)

Number of authorized personnel

Full-time 2,633, part-time 3,071

Organization structure

See organizational chart.

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 and cultural outreach patrons

Budget information

Educational and General

Instruction	63,953,426
Research	35,974,289
Public service	9,785,620
Academic support	17,077,706
Student services	5,854,651
Institutional support	15,039,896
Operation and maintenance of plant	10,071,194
Scholarships	16,963,011
Auxiliary enterprises	33,729,941
Total	\$208,449,734

■ 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, lifelong learning and 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*

Please refer to the University of Wyoming 1997 Strategic Plan Update (submitted September 1, 1997) for full statements of the four goals and 11 prioritized objectives. Copies are in the State Library, the Governor's Office, the State Auditor's Office, the Legislative Services Office and the Department of Audit. The plan is also displayed on the University of Wyoming's web site at <http://www.uwyo.edu/OM/unirel/htm/strat-pla/1997.htm>. (Note: In 1997, substantial revisions were made to the objectives, strategies and measures in the 1995 plan. Please disregard the earlier edition.)

Goal 1 Teaching, advising, recruitment, retention, timely graduation, access to academic programs.

An academic planning process was developed that will be implemented and finalized during FY99. This process will result in the assessment of existing academic programs and will establish a basis for addressing non-academic support unit priorities. No new degree programs will be approved until FY2000, when academic planning is completed.

Reviews of the College of Health Sciences (all programs) and College of Arts and Sciences (division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences) were completed, and recommendations are to be implemented during FY99. The College of Education (all programs) review was reinstituted.

A strategic planning process in the College of Agriculture was conducted, which resulted in reorganization of several academic departments in order to provide more focused programs for current instructional, research and service needs.

The ongoing review of existing academic degree programs was continued, which resulted in the elimination of several low-enrollment offerings and combination of other programs.

New physical education/health requirements were incorporated into the general education University Studies program, and the university changed the global studies/global diversity requirement.

The number of open computer labs for students was increased and upgraded to NT 4.0. The data network ATM backbone was also expanded.

A teaching presentation and/or written materials regarding approaches and philosophies on teaching and learning in hiring interviews for faculty were incorporated.

The discussion of the post-tenure review process under the leadership of the Faculty Senate was continued; a policy will be finalized during FY99 and subsequently implemented.

Recruitment and retention initiatives continue to be a major focus of faculty and administrators. A new study reveals that UW's recent student decline is primarily from part-time student enrollments; total student credit hours have remained stable. Recommendations to address these issues will be implemented during FY99.

The implementation of OnCourse degree audit system that helps students and advisors track progress toward graduation was completed.

ViewNet video interviewing system was installed in the Career Services Center to promote long-distance job interviews from campus.

A post-graduation survey to collect information regarding employment was inaugurated.

A Minority Student Leadership Initiative to promote minority student retention was implemented, and "Celebrate Diversity" presentations and discussions were continued.

The Outreach Programs (credit and non-credit programs offered off campus) and the Summer Session Programs were reviewed, and recommendations are to be implemented during FY99.

A new elementary education program was established November 25, 1998 in Powell and on the Wind River Reservation.

A proposal was submitted for B.S. degree in Humanities/Fine Arts to be delivered statewide.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Awards were expanded to students from Arizona and California, and the Good Neighbor Award for students from Nebraska was established.

Performance measures

Grades on comprehensive academic program reviews (Program Review Coordinator)

Target for 2000-01: Grade of "acceptable" to "extraordinary" on at least 80 percent of program reviews

During 1997-98, 67 percent of 12 programs were graded "acceptable" to "extraordinary."

Number of eligible programs accredited (Deans)

Target for 2000-01: 100 percent accreditation

One hundred percent accreditation of 25 programs was achieved in 1997-98.

Pass rates on licensure/certification exams for which national norms are available (Deans)

Target for 2000-01: Exceed national pass rates on 80 percent of exams

In 1997-98, 75 percent of exam averages exceeded national pass rates (eight exams).

Results of student and alumni/employer surveys (Student Affairs Office, Program Review Coordinator, Career Services Center)

Target for 2000-01: At least 75 percent overall satisfaction

In 1997-98, 78 percent of students were satisfied or very satisfied with academic programs.

Comparison of senior ACT COMP scores with freshman scores (Assessment Coordinator)

Target for 2000-01: Average gain of at least ten points (178.4 freshman score 1995 and 1996)

The 1995-96 sample group will be seniors in 1999.

Percent credit hours taught by graduate students (Office of Institutional Analysis)

Target for 2000-01: 15 percent of credit hours maximum

In 1997-98, 9 percent of credit hours were taught by graduate students.

Number of students enrolled (Office of Institutional Analysis)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain or increase overall fall semester student enrollment (11,000 students) and enrollment of new students (2,000 new students)

In 1997-98 there were 11,094 students and 1,955 new students.

Results of student academic advising survey (Office of Institutional Analysis)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain at least 75 percent overall satisfaction

In 1997-98, 95 percent students satisfied or very satisfied with advising.

Freshman retention rates (Office of Institutional Analysis)

Target for 2000-01: Increase by 4 percent (over 90 percent fall-to-spring and 73 percent fall-to-fall)

In 1997-98, 90 percent were retained fall-to-spring, and 76 percent were retained fall-to-fall.

Six-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen (Office of Institutional Analysis)

Target for 2000-01: Increase by 2.5 percent (over 44.8 percent)

In 1997-98 six-year graduation rates increased 2.6 percent to 47.3 percent.

Time-to-degree for graduate/professional students (Law School and Graduate School Dean)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain rates at national averages

In 1997-98 time-to-degree was better than national averages. At the University of Wyoming it took an average of three years for law and 6.8 years for doctorate. National average was three years for law and 7.2 years for doctorates.

Number of students receiving financial aid (Student Financial Aid)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain at current levels or better (8,321 students)

In 1997-98, 8,401 students received financial aid.

Number of site-bound students enrolled (School of Extended Studies, UW-Casper College)

Target for 2000-01: At least 10 percent increase over 4,226 students.

The 4,226 site-bound students served in 1997-98 is the new baseline. Methodology changed in August 1998.

Number of site-bound students completing degrees (School of Extended Studies, UW-Casper College)

Target for 2000-01: At least 10 percent increase over 195 students

In 1997-98 this increased 27 percent as 247 site-bound students earned degrees.

Goal 2 Research, scholarship, and creative activity; undergraduate students working one-on-one with faculty on projects; use of libraries, museums, archives.

The university set a new record in external funding.

An NSF grant was received to establish a research high-speed Internet connection.

Latest studies show about 900 undergraduate students have taken the opportunity to conduct research one-on-one with faculty.

The School and the Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR and IENR) were reorganized under a single director to integrate program initiatives to better support instructional, research, and service activities.

Performance measures

Total dollars of funding from externally sponsored awards (Research Office)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain current level (\$37 million)

Total dollars of funding from external awards increased 11 percent to \$41 million in 1997-98.

National ranking among US higher education institutions (Research Office)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain Carnegie Research II ranking

In 1997-98 Carnegie Research II ranking was maintained.

Number of refereed publications, juried shows and other forms of peer-reviewed scholarship by FTE tenure-track faculty (Deans)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain at current level (2.5 publications per FTE)

In 1997-98 publications decreased by .4 per FTE. There were 2.1 publications per FTE.

Percent tenure-track faculty with external funding (Research Office)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain at current level (47 percent)

In 1997-98, this increased 5 percent to 52 percent.

Results of surveys of students participating in faculty work (Research Office)

Target for 2000-01: At least 75 percent satisfaction (FY 97: 87 percent students said experience important or very important)

The survey was not conducted in 1997-98.

Number of users of libraries, archives, and museums (Libraries, American Heritage Center, and Art Museum)

Target for 2000-01: At least 5 percent increase (over 744,512 users)

In 1997-98, number of users increased 17 percent to 874,626 users.

Results of Libraries' user satisfaction survey (Libraries)

Target for 2000-01: At least 75 percent satisfaction

In 1997-98, 77 percent of students were satisfied or very satisfied with Libraries.

Goal 3 Academic, social, and cultural environment; administrative, fiscal, and physical environment; intercollegiate athletics.

New records were set for total private gifts, contributions to the Annual Fund and the number of donors.

The academic computing system was converted to UNIX.

A national search was conducted for a highly qualified candidate to fill the Vice President for Academic Affairs position.

Several Year 2000 software modifications were implemented.

The first element of PeopleSoft automated financial system was converted, including training of campus personnel.

The IBM Mainframe was upgraded to OS390.

Efforts to address ADA and deferred maintenance needs within budget confines were continued.

Some labs, classrooms, and office spaces were renovated.

The relationship between UW Trustees and the UW Foundation Board was strengthened.

The volume of hazardous waste generated and disposal costs were reduced.

A program for NCAA Compliance Audit was initiated.

The athletes' substance abuse/drug testing policy was revised.

The Student Athlete Center was planned.

Performance measures

Results of student opinion surveys on environment (Student Affairs Office)

Target for 2000-01: At least 75 percent overall satisfaction

In 1997-98, 63.2 percent of students were satisfied or very satisfied with environment.

Total private dollars generated by development activities (Development Office)

Target for 2000-01: At least 50 percent increase (over \$6.2 million)

In 1997-98, private dollars increased 148 percent (\$15.4 million).

Size of endowment (Development Office)

Target for 2000-01: At least 50 percent increase (over \$82.4 million)

In 1997-98 endowment increased 55 percent (\$128 million).

Budget profile (instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, institutional support, operation of plant, scholarships and intercollegiate athletics) (Finance Office)

Target for 2000-01: Percent devoted to instruction and academic support maintained above the average for public doctoral universities

In 1997-98, UW was above average (46.2 percent for UW, 45.4 percent for public doctoral universities).

Rating of deferred maintenance as defined by the UW Ten Year Maintenance and Operation Plan (Physical Plant)

Target for 2000-01: Rating of at least "Fair"

In 1997-98, the rating was "Fair" (.097 on graph).

FTE students per microcomputer and generation of computer (Information Technology)

Target for 2000-01: eight students per microcomputer, 25 percent latest generation, 50 percent one generation old and 25 percent two generations old

In 1997-98 there were 9.5 students per microcomputer; 16 percent latest generation, 46 percent one generation old, 13 percent two generations old and 25 percent three generations old.

Percent of computers networked (Information Technology)

Target for 2000-01: 97 percent of computers networked

In 1997-98, 82 percent of the computers were networked.

Student satisfaction with computer services (Student Affairs Office)

Target for 2000-01: 75 percent student satisfaction

In 1997-98, 72 percent of the students were satisfied or very satisfied with computer services.

NCAA certification of program to comply with modifications instituted by the NCAA for each five-year renewal (Athletics)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain NCAA certification "without conditions"

In 1997-98, certification without conditions was continued.

Student-athlete graduation rates (Office of Institutional Analysis)

Target for 2000-01: Maintain at or above level of overall undergraduate student population

In 1996-97, rates were below average (41 percent for student-athletes, 45 percent for undergraduate students).

Goal 4 Public service, statewide dissemination of UW expertise, off-campus non-credit programs.

Comprehensive student performance data was distributed in cooperation with Wyoming high schools and community colleges.

Articulation with Wyoming community colleges to update the existing cooperative agreements and common course numbering/titling to facilitate student transfer and degree completion in a timely fashion was continued.

Coordination with the State Library and the Administration and Information (A&I) Telecommunications Office to increase and enhance statewide accessibility to library and information resource was continued.

UW participated with various state agencies (e.g., Wyoming Department of Education, Department of Administration and Finance, State Libraries, Wyoming Workforce Council, etc.) in joint projects which impact the various entities.

One-on-one counseling continued to be provided to Wyoming businesses through the Business Assistance Center.

Continued funding for the Wyoming Mid-America Manufacturing and Technology Center (MAMTC) operation was obtained.

UW assisted with the certification of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

A technology audit was conducted to determine feasibility for technology transfer to the state.

New technologies were developed that have resulted in two or three spinoff businesses.

UW worked with the Laramie Economic Development Council to discuss planning of a research park.

UW assisted with the transition of Wyoming National Diversity Database (WYNDD) into the university.

The university helped with the development of the National Environmental Policy Act project with the Governor's Office and the Council for Environmental Quality and the Open Spaces Initiative (Sheridan, Uinta and Albany Counties) through IENR.

Information was presented to state associations such as the Wyoming Bar, Wyoming Heritage Society Steering Committee, Wyoming Stockgrowers and service clubs.

KUWR-Wyoming Public Radio continued to expand with the opening of new broadcast facilities in Afton, Gillette, Newcastle and Sheridan.

Performance measures

Results of client surveys (Small Business Development Center, Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center, Business Assistance Center, Cooperative Extension Service)

Target for 2000-01: At least 75 percent satisfaction

In 1997-98, 81 percent or 100 percent (different surveys) were satisfied or very satisfied with assistance.

Number of participants in conferences, workshops, non-credit continuing education and information programs (School of Extended Studies, UW-Casper College, Deans)

Target for 2000-01: At least 10 percent increase (12,144 participants)

In 1997-98 the number increased 70 percent (20,592 participants).

♣ Strategic plan changes

Please refer to the University of Wyoming 1997 Strategic Plan Update, submitted September 2, 1997. It will remain unchanged for 1998-99. An academic planning process is currently under way. When that process is completed, the results will be incorporated into the UW 1999-2000 strategic plan update.

University of Wyoming organization chart

