

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

North Dakota Century Code Section 15-10-14.2, as enacted by the 1989 Legislative Assembly with approval of 1989 House Bill No. 1618, provides for certain reporting requirements of the State Board of Higher Education. The section as originally enacted required the board to provide biennial reports regarding the status of higher education in the state and measures the board planned to take to ensure that the North Dakota University System would address the needs of the state. The 1999-2000 Higher Education Committee recommended, and the Legislative Assembly approved, 2001 Senate Bill No. 2041 to amend Section 15-10-14.2 to eliminate the previous reporting requirements and provide new requirements. The new requirements require the board to adopt a strategic planning process and to develop a strategic plan to define and prioritize University System goals and objectives. The board is also required to provide an annual performance and accountability report regarding performance and progress toward the goals outlined in the University System's strategic plan. In addition, the board is to report to the Legislative Assembly regarding the status of higher education in the state. A copy of Section 15-10-14.2 is attached as [Appendix A](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 1999-2000 Higher Education Committee also studied various higher education accountability measures to correspond with the new reporting requirements recommended by the committee. To assist in the development of measures, a subcommittee was formed that included selected Higher Education Committee members, the chairman of the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, the chairman of the Information Technology Committee, and representatives of the private sector, higher education, and executive branch. The subcommittee recommended several financial and nonfinancial accountability measures that were linked to the expectations and performance of the University System. The Legislative Assembly approved 2001 Senate Bill No. 2003 providing a section of legislative intent regarding the performance and accountability measures to be included in the University System's annual performance and accountability report.

The 2001-02 Higher Education Committee also reviewed accountability measures and recommended 2003 House Bill No. 1042 to enact in statute certain accountability measures to be included in the University System performance and accountability report. The bill failed to pass, but 2003 House Bill No. 1003 was amended to provide legislative intent regarding the accountability measures to be included in the report. Legislative intent was also provided for the report by the 2005, 2007, and 2009 Legislative Assemblies.

The 2011 Legislative Assembly did not provide any legislative intent regarding the performance and accountability measures to be included in the report. However, the 2011 Legislative Assembly did consider 2011 House Bill No. 1369 which would have amended Section 15-10-14.2 to provide statutory reporting requirements for the University System performance and accountability report. The bill passed the House but failed in the Senate. A copy of the bill as introduced is attached as [Appendix B](#).

Listed below are the accountability measures approved by the 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009 Legislative Assemblies.

2001-03 Accountability Measures

Education excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance on nationally recognized examinations in their major fields compared to the national averages • First-time licensure pass rates compared to other states • Alumni-reported and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities • Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates • Biennial report on employee satisfaction relating to the University System and local institutions • Ratio of faculty and staff to students • Student graduation and retention rates
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment in entrepreneurship courses and the number of graduates of entrepreneurship programs • Percentage of University System graduates obtaining employment appropriate to their education in the state • Number of businesses and employees in the region receiving training
Student access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of residents of the state who are within a 45-minute drive of a location at which they can receive educational programs from a provider • Number and proportion of enrollments in courses offered by nontraditional methods

Student affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees on a per student basis compared to the regional average • Tuition and fees as a percentage of median North Dakota household income • Cost per student in terms of general fund appropriations and total University System funding • Administrative, instructional, and other cost per student • Per capita general fund appropriations for higher education • State general fund appropriation levels for University System institutions compared to peer institutions general fund appropriation levels
Financial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of total University System funding used for instruction, research, and public service • Percentage of total University System funding used for institutional support, operations, and maintenance of physical plant • Ratio measuring the funding derived from operating and contributed income compared to total University System funding • Ratio measuring the size of the University System's outstanding maintenance as compared to its expendable net assets • Ratio measuring the amount of expendable net assets as compared to the amount of long-term debt • Research expenditures in proportion to the amount of revenue generated by research activity and funding received for research activity • Report on new construction and major renovation capital projects for which specific appropriations are made, including budget to actual comparison, use of third-party funding, and related debt

2003-05 Accountability Measures

Education excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance on nationally recognized examinations in their major fields compared to the national averages • First-time licensure pass rates compared to other states • Alumni-reported and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities • Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates • Biennial report on employee satisfaction relating to the University System and local institutions • Ratio of faculty and staff to students • Student graduation and retention rates
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment in entrepreneurship courses and the number of graduates of entrepreneurship programs • Percentage of University System graduates obtaining employment appropriate to their education in the state • Number of businesses and employees in the region receiving training
Student access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of residents of the state who are within a 45-minute drive of a location at which they can receive educational programs from a provider • Number and proportion of enrollments in courses offered by nontraditional methods
Student affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees on a per student basis compared to the regional average • Tuition and fees as a percentage of median North Dakota household income • Cost per student in terms of general fund appropriations and total University System funding • Administrative, instructional, and other cost per student • Per capita general fund appropriations for higher education • State general fund appropriation levels for University System institutions compared to peer institutions general fund appropriation levels
Financial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of total University System funding used for instruction, research, and public service • Percentage of total University System funding used for institutional support, operations, and maintenance of physical plant • Ratio measuring the funding derived from operating and contributed income compared to total University System funding • Deferred maintenance ratio measuring the size of the University System's outstanding maintenance as compared to its expendable net assets • Viability ratio measuring the amount of expendable net assets as compared to the amount of long-term debt • Research expenditures in proportion to the amount of revenue generated by research activity and funding received for research activity • New construction and major renovation capital projects for which specific appropriations are made, including budget to actual comparison, use of third-party funding, and related debt

2005-07 Accountability Measures

Education excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance on nationally recognized examinations in their major fields compared to the national averages • First-time licensure pass rates compared to other states • Alumni-reported and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities • Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates • Biennial report on employee satisfaction relating to the University System and local institutions • Student graduation and retention rates
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment in entrepreneurship courses and the number of graduates of entrepreneurship programs • Percentage of University System graduates obtaining employment appropriate to their education in the state • Number of businesses and employees in the region receiving training
Student access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and proportion of enrollments in courses offered by nontraditional methods
Student affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees on a per student basis compared to the regional average • Tuition and fees as a percentage of median North Dakota household income • Cost per student in terms of general fund appropriations and total University System funding • Per capita general fund appropriations for higher education • State general fund appropriation levels for University System institutions compared to peer institutions general fund appropriation levels
Financial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost per student and percentage distribution by major function • Ratio measuring the funding derived from operating and contributed income compared to total University System funding • Ratio measuring the amount of expendable net assets as compared to the amount of long-term debt • Research expenditures in proportion to the amount of revenue generated by research activity and funding received for research activity • Ratio measuring the amount of expendable fund balances divided by total expenditures and mandatory transfers • Ratio measuring net total revenues divided by total current revenues

2007-09 Accountability Measures

Education excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance on nationally recognized examinations in their major fields compared to the national averages • First-time licensure pass rates compared to other states • Alumni-reported and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities • Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates • Biennial report on employee satisfaction relating to the University System and local institutions • Student graduation and retention rates
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment in entrepreneurship courses and the number of graduates of entrepreneurship programs • Percentage of University System graduates obtaining employment appropriate to their education in the state • Number of businesses and employees in the region receiving training
Student access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and proportion of enrollments in courses offered by nontraditional methods
Student affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees on a per student basis compared to the regional average • Tuition and fees as a percentage of median North Dakota household income • Cost per student in terms of general fund appropriations and total University System funding • Per capita general fund appropriations for higher education • State general fund appropriation levels for University System institutions compared to peer institutions general fund appropriation levels
Financial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost per student and percentage distribution by major function • Ratio measuring the funding derived from operating and contributed income compared to total University System funding • Ratio measuring the amount of expendable net assets as compared to the amount of long-term debt

- Research expenditures in proportion to the amount of revenue generated by research activity and funding received for research activity
- Ratio measuring the amount of expendable fund balances divided by total expenditures and mandatory transfers
- Ratio measuring net total revenues divided by total current revenues

2009-11 Accountability Measures

Education attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population, 25 to 34 years of age, with an associate's degree or higher benchmarked against the national average and best-performing country • Number of certificates, associate, and baccalaureate degrees awarded to the 18-year-old population six years prior benchmarked against the national average and best-performing state
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of recent high school graduates enrolled the following fall by county in two-year and four-year University System institutions and nonpublic institutions to the extent information is available • Proportion of population, 25 to 44 years of age, with at least a high school diploma, enrolled in a credit-bearing course by county at either a two-year or four-year University System institution or nonpublic institution to the extent information is available
Contributions to economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of recent University System graduates and graduates of nonpublic institutions, to the extent information is available, within the past three years employed in the state benchmarked against historical trends • Number of recent University System graduates and graduates of nonpublic institutions, to the extent information is available, within the last three years employed in North Dakota in jobs paying at least twice the amount established as poverty level in the state benchmarked against historical trends • Annual dollar amount of research expenditures by North Dakota institutions of funds received from federal, foundation, and business sponsors benchmarked against historical trends • Number of certificates and associate degrees awarded in vocational and technical fields benchmarked against historical trends • Number of baccalaureate degrees awarded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields benchmarked against historical trends
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees relative to the lowest quintile per capita income in the state benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio • Percentage of family income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses after deducting grant aid benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio • Average amount of student loan debt incurred each year by undergraduate students benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio
Education excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student performance on nationally recognized examinations benchmarked against national averages • First-time licensure pass rates benchmarked against the best-performing states • Alumni-reported and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities benchmarked against historical trends • Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates benchmarked against historical trends
Financial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriations for general operations plus net tuition revenue per full-time equivalent student benchmarked against the national average and the best-performing state • Student share of funding for general operations benchmarked against the national average and historical trends • Number of degrees and certificates produced relative to annual state appropriations for general operations plus net tuition revenue benchmarked against the best-performing state
System functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of student credit-hours delivered by University System institutions to students attending another system institution benchmarked against historical data • Results of a biennial survey of state leaders regarding the perceptions of the system's functionality benchmarked against historical data