

ENROLLMENT GROWTH



WILLISTON
STATE COLLEGE

Census Numbers for Fall Semester-2024: (Largest in past five years)



- Headcount: **UP 16.01%**
- Full-time (FTE) Students: **UP 19.70%**
- Credit Hours Scheduled: **UP 19.70%**
- Female: **UP 13.51%**
- Male: **UP 20.18%**
- Freshman: **UP 12.07%**
- Sophomore: **UP 25.56%**
- International: **UP 36.07%**
- Dual-Credit Headcount: **UP 26.92%**
- Dual-Credit Credits Produced: **UP 54.33%**

ENROLLMENT GROWTH



WILLISTON
STATE COLLEGE

Numbers for Spring Semester-2025 (Feb. 6): (Record High Numbers!)-Census: Feb. 10

- Headcount: **UP 21.1%**
- Full-time (FTE) Students: **UP 25.26%**
- Credit Hours Scheduled: **UP 25.2%**
- Female: **UP 22.6%**
- Male: **UP 18.6%**
- Freshman: **UP 19.4 %**
- Sophomore: **UP 24.8%**
- International: **UP 32.8%**
- Dual-Credit Headcount: **UP 24.6%**
- Dual-Credit Credits Produced: **UP 48.7%**





Office of the President

To: Senator Sorvaag-Education & Environment Appropriations Chair

From: Dr. Bernell Hirning, President-WSC

Date: February 7, 2025

Subject: Williston State College Budget Request Summary

Please find below a summary of the individual budget request items for Williston State College for the funding biennium that will be July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027:

- 1.) Healthcare Training Facility Program Startup Funds:
 - a. \$1.49 million for startup costs for new Healthcare Initiative due to delay in State of ND funding model
 - i. Six Faculty Positions (Required by HLC to start new programs)
 - ii. Coordinator of Healthcare Training
 - iii. Two Custodians/Maintenance
- 2.) Staffing to support growth
 - a. \$1 million to support current and future growth
 - i. Prior leadership at WSC made staffing cuts of a dozen positions due to declining enrollments, that bottomed in Fall, 2021, at 908 headcount. However, due to growth, 16% in the Fall, 2024, and 20% in the Spring, 2025, WSC seeks to add back some of the staffing to service the current growth that added 336 students to reach an all-time record headcount of nearly 1,250 in Spring, 2025.
 - ii. Growth experienced above is BEFORE any of the following initiatives, scheduled to launch in Fall, 2025, have yielded any new students:
 1. A dozen new healthcare programs
 2. Canadian par-value tuition initiative
 3. Women's & Men's Cross-country
 4. Four-year bachelor-completion programs
 - iii. Requesting one position for each of the following:
 1. Admissions Advisor; Retention Advisor; Associate Registrar; Accountant; Operations; Dual-credit Specialist



- 3.) Develop University Center (4-year Programs)
 - a. \$2 million one-time request:
 - i. Repurpose current Nursing and Massage spaces to traditional classroom space (Clinical classroom space and office space renovation)
 - ii. Meet/Address parking constraints for additional students
- 4.) Provide 100% 'hold harmless' funding due to COVID numbers comparison
 - a. Over \$525,000 short
- 5.) Continuation of last biennium pay raises
 - a. Support 6%/4% from last biennium
 - b. Support new pay raises
- 6.) Coverage of retirement plan conversion & health insurance premium increase
 - a. Nearly \$94,548 PERS conversion
- 7.) 14% increase in healthcare premiums (\$500K+)
- 8.) (NEW): Shared Services Support in NDUS
- 9.) (NEW): Capital Tiered Funding Support

Each of the budget requests above are directly related to WSC's ability to service its growth and reach toward the next level of growth to make certain the Bakken Region of North Dakota will continue to be provided with a highly trained workforce. WSC feels strongly that the growth in academic year, 2025, is just the tip of the iceberg for continued growth. As the initiatives proposed in (2a-ii) above come online in the fall semester, 2025, strong sustainable growth is expected to continue.

WSC looks forward to having the opportunity to discuss each of these requests at a future committee meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at: 701-339-2516 or by email at bernell.hirning@willistonstate.edu. Thank you.

Bernell Hirning, PhD
President-Williston State College