

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

**\$15.8M**

**TOTAL SAVED**  
by Utah students through  
WICHE's Student Access  
Programs.

**\$12.0M**  
**SAVED**  
through WUE

**\$3.2M**  
**SAVED**  
through WRGP

**\$556K**  
**SAVED**  
through PSEP

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



**WUE**

Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Utah WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ **University of Utah (4,512)**
- ▶ **Utah Valley University (813)**
- ▶ **Southern Utah University (599)**

Top out-of-state WUE schools for Utah undergraduate students:

- ▶ **Mohave College, AZ (160)**
- ▶ **Western Wyoming Community College (77)**
- ▶ **Colorado Mesa University (73)**

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



**WRGP**

Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Utah WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Utah (85)**
- ▶ **Utah State University (35)**
- ▶ **Weber State University (18)**

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for Utah graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Idaho (46)**
- ▶ **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (24)**
- ▶ **Idaho State University (15)**

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



**PSEP**

Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

**28 Utah students paid reduced tuition** for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

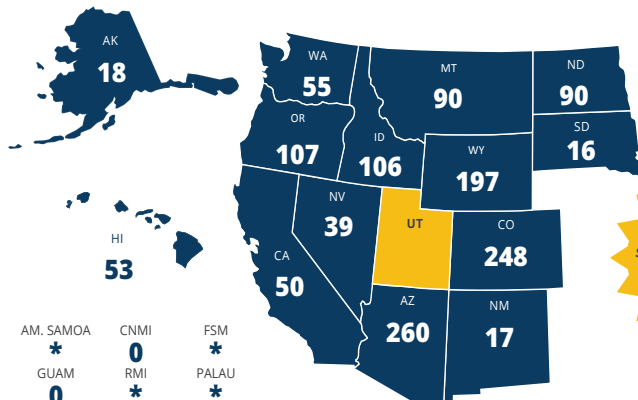
**49% of Utah's PSEP graduates returned home to practice** (2012-21). Students are not contractually required to return.

**Utah's institutions and their local economies benefit, too.** This year, 47 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in Utah. Institutions received \$1.3M in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

**2,158% ROI** Gained on Utah's WICHE annual dues (\$174,500/FY 2026)

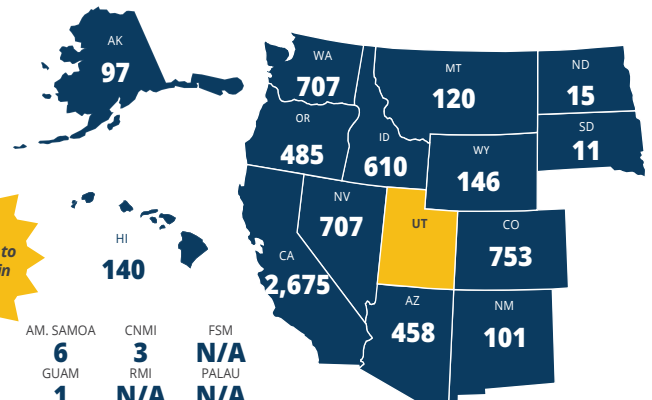
## WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM UTAH: **1,346**



**7,035 WUE students chose to attend school in Utah**

WUE STUDENTS TO UTAH: **7,035**

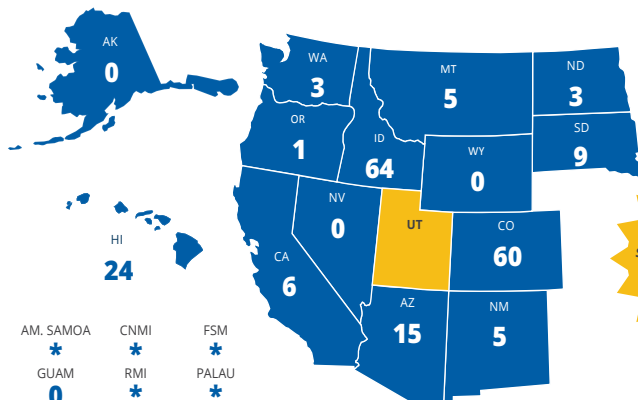


\* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

**Note:** Students from Utah are eligible for the Regional In-State Equivalent Tuition Program at Colorado State University and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

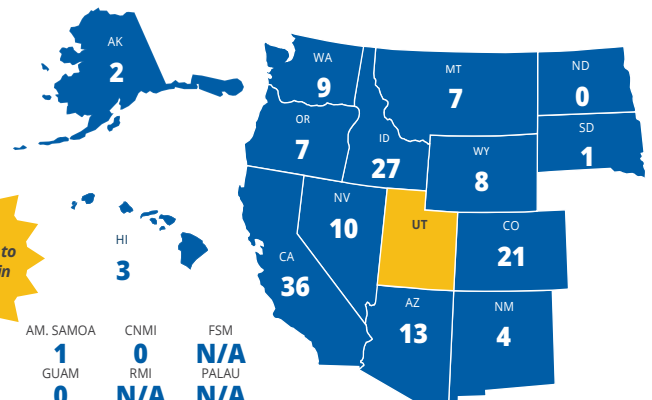
## WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM UTAH: **195**



**149 WRGP students chose to attend school in Utah**

WRGP STUDENTS TO UTAH: **149**



\* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

## PSEP

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Optometry	19	\$408,025
Podiatry	9	\$148,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$556,225</b>

PSEP students from Utah saved \$556,225 in tuition

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



**||** PSEP has made optometry school financially feasible by lowering tuition costs. This support eased my worries about debt and allowed me to stay focused and driven in my studies. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to pursue my academic and professional goals with less financial stress. **||**

**ALISON**, Utah resident, Optometry, A.T. Still University (Arizona)

# STRENGTHENING UTAH AND THE WEST

WICHE brings together senior leaders and partners to foster dialogue about issues facing institutions and states through its leadership and professional development networks.

## WESTERN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC LEADERS – 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Salt Lake Community College

Jamie Cooper, Salt Lake Community College, serves on the Alliance executive committee.

## WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ University of Utah
- ▶ Utah System of Higher Education
- ▶ Utah Technical University
- ▶ Utah Valley University

TJ Bliss, Utah System of Higher Education, serves on the Forum executive committee.

**WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region. Four cohort members from Utah institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015. TJ Bliss, Utah System of Higher Education, serves as a primary faculty member for the Academy.

WICHE convenes the **OERWEST NETWORK** as part of a national effort to expand free course materials and other open educational resources (OER) that reduce textbook costs and support student success. WICHE is also conducting a regional landscape analysis examining how textbook price transparency and affordability policies are being implemented across the West.

With support from the Utah Medical Education Council, WICHE's BHP worked with partner agencies to develop a broad and locally relevant training program to support the preparation and retention of doctoral-level psychologists in Utah. WICHE's BHP is providing consulting services to the **UTAH PSYCHOLOGY INTERSHIP CONSORTIUM (UT-PIC)** to assist in its re-accreditation process and completing a self-study in preparation for its American Psychological Association (APA) accreditation site visit.

**MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (MP ROTAC)** develops and

Created by the WICHE Commission in 1995, the **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)** works to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. Members are state legislators appointed by the WICHE Commissioners in the region to explore emerging policy issues and develop strategies for interstate collaboration.

- ▶ **Senator Michael McKell**
- ▶ **Senator Ann Millner** (*Commission Chair*)
- ▶ **Representative Karen Peterson**
- ▶ **Representative Neil Walter**

shares resources, training, and technical assistance focused on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas in Region 8. This is funded through a multiyear grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP)** is a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorder. In Utah, the RCORP program supports two grantees.

**WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES** is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced digital learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. WCET members include:

- ▶ Brigham Young University
- ▶ Ensign College
- ▶ Salt Lake Community College
- ▶ Southern Utah University
- ▶ Utah State University
- ▶ Utah System of Higher Education
- ▶ Weber State University
- ▶ Western Governors University

**STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN)** guides institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. Utah has 21 members.

## Utah Commissioners



**Patricia Jones Horton**

Retired, Former CEO, Women's Leadership Institute



**Geoffrey Landward**

Commissioner of Higher Education, Utah System of Higher Education



**Ann Millner**

Chair, Senator, Utah State Legislature

## Distance Education Reciprocity

Utah institutions save money on out-of-state authorization fees by participating in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) through WICHE. This voluntary agreement provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red-tape for institutions.

**\$6M** UTAH ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

## Cost-savings Partnerships

WICHE offers pre-negotiated student health and technology contracts to colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, state and local governments, and education-related nonprofits through a cost-savings program with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Last year, participating entities saved an average of 9% compared with other purchasing options.

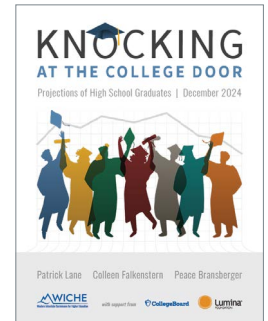
**\$359k** UTAH ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

## Data and Policy Resources for Utah

Policymakers and campus leaders in Utah can explore WICHE's data and policy resources to better understand what's happening at home and across the West. These resources provide reliable state-level and regional insights to help make informed, strategic decisions that strengthen postsecondary education and workforce outcomes.

- ▶ **Knocking at the College Door** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of high school graduates. Visit [wiche.edu/knocking](https://wiche.edu/knocking) to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.
- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.
- ▶ With support from the ECMC Foundation, WICHE equips state leaders with analysis and resources on **Completion Strategies in the West** to increase credential completion and improve student success across states.

Our data experts provide research, analysis, and peer collaboration opportunities on key higher education issues, including workforce development, state finance, transfer, student success strategies, and more, to help decision-makers develop evidence-based, effective policy solutions.



## About WICHE

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a regional interstate higher education compact of 15 Western states and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States. Since 1953, WICHE has focused on its mission of expanding educational access and excellence for all residents of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. Visit [wiche.edu](https://wiche.edu).