

**KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
BUSINESS MEETING**



April 2, 2026 – 1:00 p.m. ET  
 CPE Offices, 100 Airport Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601 – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference  
 Livestream access at: <https://bit.ly/4scM6LS>

*\*consent action item*

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## MEETING MINUTES

*Draft for approval by the Council on April 2, 2026*

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Business Meeting  
Date: January 30, 2026  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual meeting via ZOOM webinar

### WELCOME REMARKS

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The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred virtually by ZOOM webinar. Vice Chair Elaine Walker presided.

### ATTENDANCE

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There was a quorum of 11 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – attended
- Jai Bokey – attended
- Jacob Brown – did not attend
- Lindsey Case – attended
- Jennifer Collins – did not attend
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – did not attend
- Dr. Meredith Figg – attended
- Sean Garber – attended
- Karyn Hoover – attended
- Dennis Reppenning – attended
- LaDonna Rogers – attended
- Madison Silvert – did not attend
- Elaine Walker – attended
- Kevin Weaver – attended (joined at 10:40)
- Michael Wheeler – attended
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – attended

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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The minutes of the November 6-7, 2025, meetings were approved as presented.

### REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT

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President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments focusing on the latest happenings during the 2026 legislative session as well as the Council's efforts to monitor student debt levels and how this affects

college affordability, one of CPE’s focus areas. He also discussed the evolving nature of Workforce Pell at the federal level.

Ms. Regan Satterwhite, CPE’s Legislative Liaison, provided a comprehensive overview of bills the Council is tracking during the 2026 legislative session. This review covered many bills, including House Bill (HB) 94, known as the “transfer pathways” bill; HB 96, relating to the Postsecondary Education Working Group; HB 307, regarding proactive postsecondary admissions; and Senate Bill 22, related to the dual credit scholarship program.

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## **REPORT FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)**

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KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher discussed the bills the Kentucky Department of Education is tracking during the 2026 legislative session. He also discussed revisions to the state’s K-12 accountability system.

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## **REPORT FROM STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER**

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Mr. Wheeler’s report to the Council focused on the Board of Student Body Presidents’ priority areas for the 2025-26 academic year, which include affordability, quality student success, and college-going. He also invited the Council to attend the annual Rally for Higher Education taking place at the Capital Annex on February 26.

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## **STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM**

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President Ryan Quarles provided the Council with an institutional update on the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). The update focused on KCTCS’ key strategies for each of the strategic priorities of the statewide agenda, as well as the baseline data and progress on statewide key performance indicators. His annual update also highlighted several points of pride, including enrollment increases and gains in the three-year graduation rate.

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## **STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY**

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President Ron Patterson provided the Council with an institutional update on Murray State University (MuSU). The update focused on MuSU’s key strategies for each of the strategic priorities of the statewide agenda, as well as the baseline data and progress on key performance indicators. His annual update also highlighted recent and upcoming campus expansion projects and the proposed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.

Following this presentation, the Council took a 15-minute break.

## **ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS**

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Prior to giving the report and recommendations of the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, and on Committee Chair Hoover's behalf, Ms. Rogers requested that agenda item 7.A.5 be removed from the consent agenda. Vice Chair Walker made note of that request and stated it would be moved to an individual vote.

Ms. Rogers stated that the ASI Committee met on January 26, 2026, and members received updates on:

- The Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, which discussed the outcomes of their work with campuses to implement meaningful improvement strategies.
- CPE's expanding blueprint in the film and TV industry. Much of the work so far has focused on career awareness, identifying current postsecondary programs offered, and identifying known workforce gaps.
- The final enrollment numbers for the fall of 2025.
- The approval of one new program that does not require additional Council review and approval – an Associate of Applied Science in Water Resource Technology at Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

The Committee also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following proposed new programs:

- University of Kentucky – B.A., Film and Sonic Art (CIP 50.0602)
- Kentucky State University – B.S., Aquatic Science (CIP 26.1304)
- Kentucky State University – B.A., Public Policy (CIP 44.0501)
- Kentucky State University – M.P.H., Master of Public Health in Nutrition (CIP 51.2207)

MOTION: The ASI Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM – MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY**

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KRS 164.295(2)(b) permits comprehensive universities to offer doctoral programs, including but not limited to Doctor of Philosophy degree programs, advanced practice doctoral degree programs, and doctoral degree programs for professional practice and licensure. Additionally, KRS 164.295(3)(a)–(c) provides the standards a comprehensive university must maintain to be eligible to submit a proposal for a new doctoral program.

Dr. Melissa Bell, Vice President for Academic Excellence, and Mr. Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, presented MuSU's request for the proposed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. Mr. Powell provided a summary analysis of the eligibility criteria for comprehensive universities wishing to offer doctoral degrees and stated that

MuSU met the requirements set forth for first-to-second year retention rates and six-year graduation rates. Additionally, MuSU met the benchmark for unrestricted cash reserves necessary to demonstrate financial stability. Dr. Bell gave an overview of the program review process up to this point.

MuSU President Ron Patterson and Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman, MuSU's Department Head of Animal Health Technology and Pre-Vet Medicine, presented the program's components. The proposed program will be the first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program in Kentucky. As opposed to a traditional education model where students complete clinical rotations at an institutionally owned and operated site, the program will use a distributed education model. Fourth-year students will engage in clinical rotations through various individual veterinary clinics and practices, including MuSU's Breathitt Veterinary Center. This is the same model used by the last six schools of veterinary medicine to be accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

MOTION: Mr. Repenning moved the Council approve the proposed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Murray State University. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS**

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On Committee Chair Brown's behalf, Ms. Case presented the Finance Committee report and recommendations of action to the Council. Ms. Case stated that the Finance Committee met on January 26, 2026, and members received updates on:

- The development of the 2026-2028 biennial budget during the 2026 legislative session.
- The usage of funds allocated for the Asset Preservation Pool and Endowment Match Programs.
- The upcoming review of the performance funding model and how the makeup of that working group may change based on pending legislation.

The Committee also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following proposed action items:

- Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy for academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27, in which the only notable change from the previous year was the name of the policy.
- Proposed tuition and fees for Kentucky State University for academic year 2026-27, which included an increase to its annual base-rate charge for both resident and non-resident undergraduate students of 1.6 percent. KSU proposed no change to the current per-credit-hour rates for graduate students.

- An interim capital project from Murray State University, which would replace the HVAC unit and building automation systems controls at the Susan E. Bauernfeind Wellness Center Pool at a total project scope of \$2,200,000.
- Revisions to the Area Technology Center Employee Waiver Policy, which better align with statute, clarify the requirement that it is only available to regular-full-time employees, and states participants must complete a FAFSA in order to qualify for the waiver.
- Revisions to the Equine Trust Fund Program Guidelines, which clarified eligibility for participation, the criteria for the awarding of funds, and reporting guidelines.

MOTION: The Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS**

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Vice Chair Walker presented the Executive Committee report for its January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee did not have a quorum and had no actions to present for full board approval.

The Committee received a mid-year update on the Council's current-year agency budget. Staff stated that CPE's expenditures are aligned to mid-year projections, and adjustments have been made, as necessary, to comply with a mandated 3 percent budget reduction.

The Committee also received a presentation from Blue and Company, PSC, highlighting the results of the annual audit for the year ended June 30, 2025. For fiscal year 2025, the auditors issued an unmodified opinion, stating that the Council's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Council as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, the expenditures of federal awards and supplementary information are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole. The firm also noted that it did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that it considers to be material weaknesses.

MOTION: Rev. Akins moved the Council accept the audit results for fiscal year 2025. Ms. Hoover seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Vice Chair Walker also presented the revised meeting dates for September 2026, to accommodate several conflicts identified after the previous dates were approved. The revised dates proposed were:

- Executive Committee – From Sunday, Sept. 10 to Sunday, Sept. 27
- Business meeting – From Monday, Sept. 11 to Monday, Sept. 28
- Trusteeship Conference – From Monday/Tuesday, Sept 11-12 to Monday/Tuesday, Sept 28-29.

MOTION: Mr. Repenning moved the Council approve the revised meeting dates. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The Vice Chair made the following committee appointments, on behalf of Chair Silvert, to the Equine Trust Advisory Committee:

- Katie Kaufman, Morehead State University
- Shea Poor, Murray State University
- James Matthews, University of Kentucky
- Amy Lawyer, University of Louisville
- Dan Strunk, Western Kentucky University
- Remi Bellocq, Bluegrass Community and Technical College

## **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT**

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Vice Chair Walker presented the report of the Committee, which met on January 26, 2026. The meeting focused primarily on student success efforts and included a report from the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative. It highlighted KYSSC's initiatives around student basic needs and adult attainment, touching on their work in the areas of trusted sources training, parent student voice research, and system redesign grants for childcare solutions.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM**

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Committee Chair Kevin Weaver presented the Nominating Committee Report. After soliciting nominations and expressions of interest, the Committee unanimously agreed to re-elect Madison Silvert as Chair and Elaine Walker as Vice Chair.

MOTION: The Nominating Committee's recommendation of approval served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.



## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT DEBT LEVELS IN KENTUCKY**

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Presenters included: Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics; and two student interns – Patricia Juarbe Rivera and Nushka Karki. They presented the data highlighted in the newest CPE report on undergraduate student debt levels in Kentucky.

The analysis examined changes in the proportion of completers graduating with zero debt, as well as average debt loads, over the past five academic years (2019-20 through 2024-25). Data were analyzed for students completing associate, bachelor's, certificate, and diploma programs at the time of their highest credential of record. Average debt was reported both for all graduates (including those with no debt) and for borrowers only providing a comprehensive view of borrowing patterns across sectors and student populations. The data reflected both federal (e.g., Pell, Stafford) and private loans.

Overall findings showed that the proportion of students graduating debt-free is increasing substantially. Further, student debt levels at graduation continue to decline across Kentucky's public postsecondary system. These trends reflect sustained efforts by institutions and state leaders to promote affordability through restrained tuition increases, expanded grant aid, improved financial literacy, and timely degree completion.

## **CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

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Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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Vice Chair Walker reminded Council members to complete the annual Statement of Financial Disclosure, a requirement of the Ethics Commission. It is due by April 15, 2026.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned the business meeting at 1:15 p.m. ET.

## MEETING MINUTES

*Draft for approval by the Council on April 2, 2026*

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Special-called Business Meeting  
Date: March 16, 2026  
Time: 11:30 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual meeting via ZOOM webinar

### WELCOME REMARKS

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The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a special-called business meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred virtually, and Chair Madison Silvert presided.

### ATTENDANCE

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There was a quorum of 14 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – attended
- Jai Bokey – attended
- Jacob Brown – attended
- Lindsey Case – attended
- Jennifer Collins – attended
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – attended (joined 11:50)
- Dr. Meredith Figg – attended
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – attended
- Dennis Reppenning – attended
- LaDonna Rogers – attended
- Madison Silvert – attended
- Elaine Walker – did not attend
- Kevin Weaver – attended
- Michael Wheeler – did not attend
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – did not attend

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF FUNDING FOR PROPOSED DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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The focus of the meeting was the recommendation to approve an appropriation request of \$50 million to the General Assembly for a new Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). This action item was expedited to ensure it reached the General Assembly before the budget conference committee.

Mr. Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, and Mr. Brent Floyd, Senior Associate of Finance Policy and Programs, presented the request and key

discussion points. EKU was determined to be eligible for the program as it meets the academic requirements (75th percentile nationally/80th percentile among SREB institutions for retention and graduation) and financial liquidity requirement (maintaining over 3 months of cash on hand, specifically calculated at 3.18 months).

Mr. Powell stated the proposal includes a unique \$42 million escrow reserve required by the accrediting body (Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation) as an "insurance policy," to be returned to the state after final accreditation and graduation of the program's first class. Additionally, \$8 million was requested for initial biennial operating expenses.

Dr. Melissa Bell, Vice President of Academic Excellence, discussed the review process the proposed program underwent prior to seeking Council approval.

EKU President David McFaddin highlighted Kentucky's critical physician shortage. He stated that 94% of Kentucky counties are designated as health professional shortage areas, and eight counties currently have no primary care physicians. He stated that EKU's program will aim for a class size of 150, with a specific focus on a rural medicine track. If funding is appropriated and the program is approved, the first class is expected to matriculate in fall 2031 and graduate in spring 2035.

Council members asked if adding a fourth medical school in the state would affect enrollment at UK, UofL and Pikeville University, and whether the new DO school would alleviate practitioner shortages in rural areas. EKU's responses alleviated these concerns. CPE staff also clarified that if approved, the requested escrow reserve will remain in the state government's bank reserves in an interest-bearing account.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved the Council approve the General Fund appropriation request for a proposed doctorate in osteopathic medicine at Eastern Kentucky University in the following amounts:

- \$42 Million requested in escrow reserves to initiate program offerings
- \$8 Million requested for initial operating expenses

Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. ET.

### Kentucky is less than 5 points away from its 60x30 goal

Kentucky's latest attainment data remind us that progress is rarely a straight line. Our state's attainment rate now stands at 55.5%, down slightly from 56.2% in 2023, due largely to a decline in workplace certifications. While this change is disappointing, it should not distract us from the larger picture: Kentucky remains within reach of its 60x30 goal, and our work continues to move Kentucky in the right direction.

Our statewide strategic agenda gives us a clear framework for that work through five priority areas: Affordability,

Transitions, Success, Talent, and Value. These priorities reflect the student journey, from access, to persistence and completion, to workforce connection and public confidence in higher education.

We are seeing encouraging gains in postsecondary enrollment, including among adult learners and other key student populations, showing that more Kentuckians are entering education and training beyond high school.

Just as important, students are not only enrolling — they are staying. Kentucky

has made strong improvements in retention and persistence, demonstrating that our institutions and partners are building stronger pathways for students to succeed once they arrive on campus.

The dip in attainment is a signal that we must stay focused, especially on categories where momentum has slowed. But it is also a reminder that our long-term strategy is sound. If we continue aligning policy, practice, and investment, we can regain ground and keep Kentucky moving toward 60x30.

### House Bill 307 passage means proactive admissions for high school students

On March 25, the Kentucky General Assembly sent House Bill 307, the My Kentucky Future Act, to the Governor. Through this legislation, Kentucky has taken an important step toward making the transition from high school to college more clear and more student-centered. This legislation sends a powerful message to our students: if you work hard and meet the qualifications, Kentucky's postsecondary system is ready to open doors for you.

For Kentucky high school students, this bill means the path to education after high school should become easier to begin. Rather than expecting students to navigate a complicated admissions process on their own, this law creates a more proactive approach. Public colleges and universities will identify minimum qualifications for prospective admission and use a common online application process approved by the Council. Eligible students will then receive direct notice that they qualify for prospective admission, along with information about financial aid, likely costs, and potential workforce outcomes.

This matters because too many students lose momentum after high school. Kentucky longitudinal data show that 10

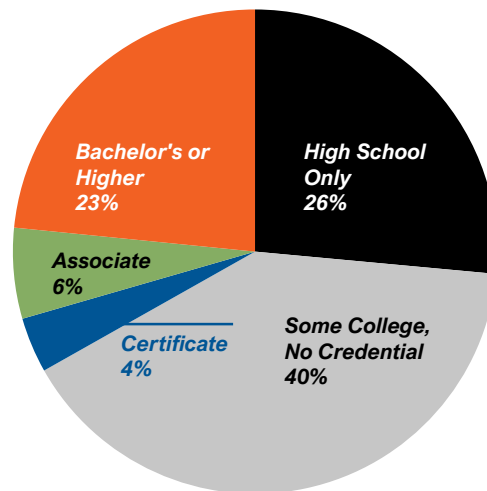


**Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.**  
CPE President

years after graduation, only 33% of Kentucky students have completed a postsecondary credential. In other words, 67% either did not enroll in postsecondary education or did not complete a program. That is not just a student challenge; it is a challenge for our workforce, our communities, and our future. When students do not make a successful transition beyond high school, Kentucky loses talent, employers face shortages, and families miss out on the economic mobility that education and training can provide.

This law helps address that problem by giving students earlier encouragement, clearer direction, and better information. It is especially important for first-generation students, low-income

### 10-Year Postsecondary Outcomes for Kentucky High School Graduates (2011-14)



Kentucky longitudinal data show that 10 years after graduation, only 33% of Kentucky students have completed a postsecondary credential. 67% either did not enroll in a postsecondary or did not complete a program.

Source: KYSTATS

students, and others who may not have strong support or family experience navigating college admissions.

It also comes at a time when Kentucky has made real progress on affordability. Today, 6 out of 10 undergraduate students graduate debt-free. That is an important sign that statewide efforts to keep college affordable are making a difference. House Bill 307 builds on that progress by helping more students see college as both possible and worth pursuing.

For CPE, this law aligns directly with our commitment to access, affordability, and student success—and to help more Kentuckians move from enrollment, and to completion.

# 2026-2028 Biennial Budget Update

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Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President for Finance Policy and Programs  
Leslie Brown, Assistant Vice President for Operations

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education



# 2026-2028 Biennial Budget Update

## HB 500 FCCR

CPE Agency Budget FISCAL YEAR 2026- 2027					
Appropriation Category	CPE Recommended BASE	Free Conference Committee			FY 2026-27 Budget
		Reduction	Insurance, Retirement, 2% Employee Increment	Fund Swap	
General Fund - Operating Inc. Healthcare Workforce	\$14,695,700	(\$316,100)	\$210,800	(\$3,477,300)	\$11,113,100
General Fund - Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research	2,000,000	(80,000)			1,920,000
General Fund - Ovarian Cancer Screening	1,000,000	(40,000)			960,000
General Fund - SREB Dues	224,800	0			224,800
Restricted Fund	8,200,000	0	32,400	3,477,300	11,709,700
Federal Fund	6,070,800	0	58,000		6,128,800
Tobacco Settlement Fund	6,250,000	(84,100)			6,165,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,441,300</b>				<b>\$38,222,300</b>

# 2026-2028 Biennial Budget Update

## HB 500 FCCR

CPE Agency Budget FISCAL YEAR 2027-2028				
Appropriation Category	CPE Recommended BASE	Free Conference Committee		FY 2027-2028 Budget
		Reduction	Health Insurance, Retirement, 2% Employee Increment	
General Fund - Operating Inc. Healthcare Workforce	\$14,695,700	(\$504,200)	\$490,400	\$14,681,900
General Fund - Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research	2,000,000	(140,000)		1,860,000
General Fund - Ovarian Cancer Screening	1,000,000	(70,000)		930,000
General Fund - SREB Dues	224,800	0		224,800
Restricted Fund	8,200,000	771,468	54,432	9,025,900
Federal Fund	6,070,800	0	119,300	6,190,100
Tobacco Settlement Fund	6,250,000	(504,500)		5,745,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,441,300</b>			<b>\$38,658,200</b>

### Initiatives Funded by the Budget Reserve Trust Funds

- **\$220,000 in fiscal year 2026-2027 for the National Stem Cell Foundation**
- **\$37.5 Million in fiscal year 2026-2027 Endowed Research Fund**
  - Five consortium accounts
  - \$1.5 million allocated annually for five years to each research consortium
- **\$1.5 Million in fiscal year 2027-2028 for the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government to fund a scholarship through the Ed Brown Society**



# Governor's Budget Recommendation (HB 304)

- Postsecondary Institutions exempted from base budget reductions
- Performance Fund distributed to base budgets of institutions that earned funds (total of \$115 million moved to base for FY27 and FY28; no performance appropriation)
- Adjusted campus base budgets for changes in Fire and Tornado Fund premiums
- \$42M for ECU Osteopathic Medicine Escrow
- \$4M for UK Holocaust Education Initiative
- \$768M in Bond Funded Capital Projects

# House Budget (HB 500 HCS1)

- Stated base and mandated program budget reductions of 4% in FY27 and an additional 3% in FY28
- Total reductions compared to FY26 base of \$42.0M in FY27 and \$73.5M in FY28
- Performance fund maintained at \$115 million in FY27 and FY28
- Pension subsidies reduced for institutions receiving those subsidies
- Additional funding for the Gatton Academy at WKU and the Craft Academy at Morehead
- \$190M in Bond Funded Capital Projects

# Senate Budget (HB 500 SCS1)

- Maintains base funding for the postsecondary institutions at the 2025-26 levels with no across the board reductions
- Includes adjustments to institutions base budgets based on changes in the Fire and Tornado assessments
- Pension subsidies reduced for institutions receiving those subsidies
- Increases the performance fund by \$5 million in 2026-27 and \$15 million in 2027-28 (total of \$120 million in 2026-27 and \$130 million in 2027-28)

# Senate Budget (HB 500 SCS1)

- Additional funding items:
  - Air Traffic Control Training Program at ECU - \$6.5 million in 2026-27 and \$1.5 million in 2027-28
  - Gatton Academy at WKU and Craft Academy at Morehead State University - \$517,100 each in 2026-27 and \$1.0 million each in 2027-28
  - Votruba Young Scholars Academy at NKU - \$1.8 million in 2026-27 and \$3.6 million in 2027-28
  - KCTCS-TRAINS - \$1.85 million in each year
- The Senate Budget includes \$190 million in bond funds for asset preservation, following the same allocation method as the House Budget.
- The Senate Budget also adds \$410 million in bond funds for new construction projects at UK, UofL, ECU, Morehead, and KCTCS.

# HB 500 FCCR

- The Free Conference Committee Report (FCCR) was passed by both chambers on April 1, 2026
- It reduced the budgets of UK, NKU, UK, UofL, WKU, and KCTCS by approximately 1.9% in 2026-27 (\$16.2 million) and 3.7% (\$31.1 million) in 2027-28
- Morehead, Murray, and KSU were exempted from the 1.9% and 3.7% reductions
- The FCCR maintained the same level of funding for mandated programs as the Senate, with the addition of \$2 million at KSU for enhanced online offerings
- It includes adjustments to institutions base budgets based on changes in the Fire and Tornado assessments
- Pension subsidies reduced for institutions receiving those subsidies

# HB 500 FCCR

- The FCCR includes \$190 million in bond funds for asset preservation, following the same allocation method as the House and Senate Budgets.
- It includes the \$410 million in bond funds for new construction projects at UK, UofL, EKV, Morehead, and KCTCS that were included in the Senate Budget.
- It also includes \$129.4 million in bond funds for new construction projects at Morehead and KSU.
- Maintains the performance funding pool at \$115 million for 2026-27 and 2027-28, same as 2025-26
- Base reductions will have an impact on performance funding distributions
- We are still reviewing language provisions and reconciling funding amounts

# HB 900 FCCR

- House Bill 900 is the one-time funding bill
- Little information about the bill was available until the FCCR was released on April 1, 2026
- It includes the following one-time appropriations to the postsecondary institutions:
  - \$42 million for an escrow and \$8 million in start up funds for the Osteopathic Medicine Program at EKU
  - \$7.7 million at WKU for technology upgrades
  - \$2.5 million at UofL to support the pursuit of National Cancer Institute designation
  - \$2.2 million for KCTCS for a training center
  - \$1.3 million at UofL for a literacy and numeracy clinic in West Louisville
  - \$250,000 for KCTCS for a rural workforce study

# Remaining Timeline

- HB 500 and HB 900 have now been delivered to the Governor
- The Governor has line item veto authority for appropriations bills
- Vetoes (if any) will be considered by the General Assembly when they return on April 14<sup>th</sup>



## News Releases

- CPE recognizes faculty and staff for excellence in student-focused efforts
- CPE board approves additional budget request for ECU osteopathic medicine program
- New Futuriti.org homepage makes it easier for Kentuckians to find their futures
- Kentucky undergraduate enrollment continues to grow, outpacing national trends
- CPE Board approves new veterinary program at Murray State University
- CPE: 6 out of 10 Kentucky college students are graduating debt-free

## Online & Print Coverage

- Senate unveils major reforms for Kentucky State University in bid to avoid 'closure'  
Coverage by: Louisville Public Media, Hoptown Chronicle, The Lexington Times, ABC 36, Kentucky Lantern, LEX 18, WKYT
- KSU hosts student panels highlighting Black experience in higher education  
Coverage by: WDRB
- CPE approves MSU's doctoral veterinary medicine program  
Coverage by: WPSD, Lane Report, WKMS, Vet Candy, Murray State News
- NKY Chamber to host workforce best practices symposium, 'Future-Ready Workplaces'  
Coverage by: NKY Tribune
- Total degrees, credentials up 5% at Kentucky colleges, universities  
Coverage by: Spectrum News, NKY Tribune, Glasgow News 1
- Council on Postsecondary Education approves \$50 million request to the General Assembly for a new ECU doctoral program  
Coverage by: WEKU, Lexington Herald-Leader
- Kentucky universities brace for possible funding cuts in new budget  
Coverage by: Spectrum News
- Report shows more Kentuckians are graduating college without debt  
Coverage by: Spectrum News, Winchester Sun

## Op-Ed



**"While the national media sound the alarm about rising college costs and ballooning loan debt, graduates like me have a different story to tell. Thanks to statewide and campus efforts, Kentucky is proving that an affordable college education remains within reach."**

Alexia Juarez  
Communications Associate

## Television Interviews



Kentucky Newsmakers, March 15



WKYT, Spectrum News, March 4

## Media Statements

### Statement on HB 500

*"Kentucky's progress in postsecondary education has resulted from sustained collaboration among institutions, policymakers, and state leadership. Continued investment is essential to maintaining that momentum and ensuring that more Kentuckians can earn the degrees and credentials needed to support their families and contribute to the state's economy."*

### CPE Statement on SB 185

"The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education is supportive of the committee substitute for Senate Bill 185 and the future direction it outlines for Kentucky State University. This vision represents an opportunity to build a targeted polytechnic university while honoring KSU's historic mission and legacy. The legislation is the result of thoughtful collaboration among legislative leadership in both chambers, along with leadership at KSU and the Council.



# 2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA

## INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

Kentucky State University



Affordability



Transitions



Success



Equity



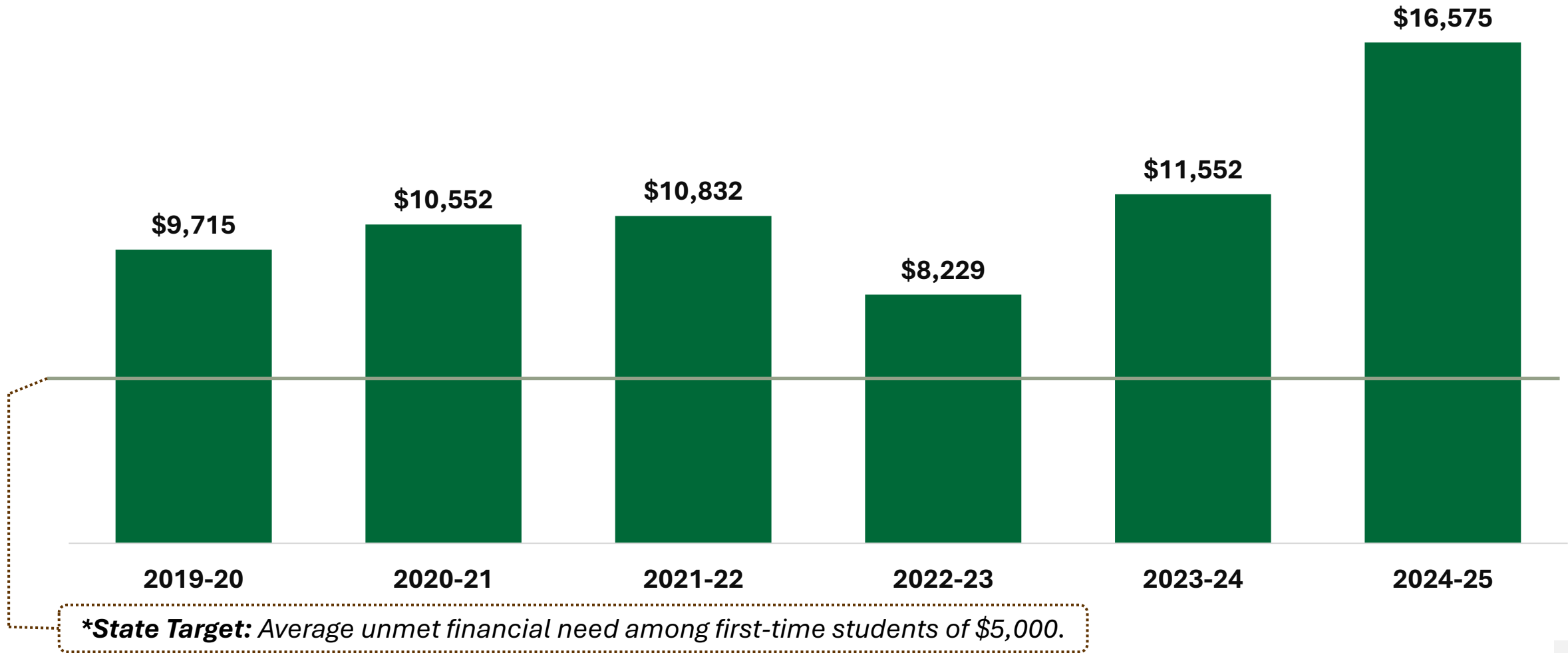
Talent



Value

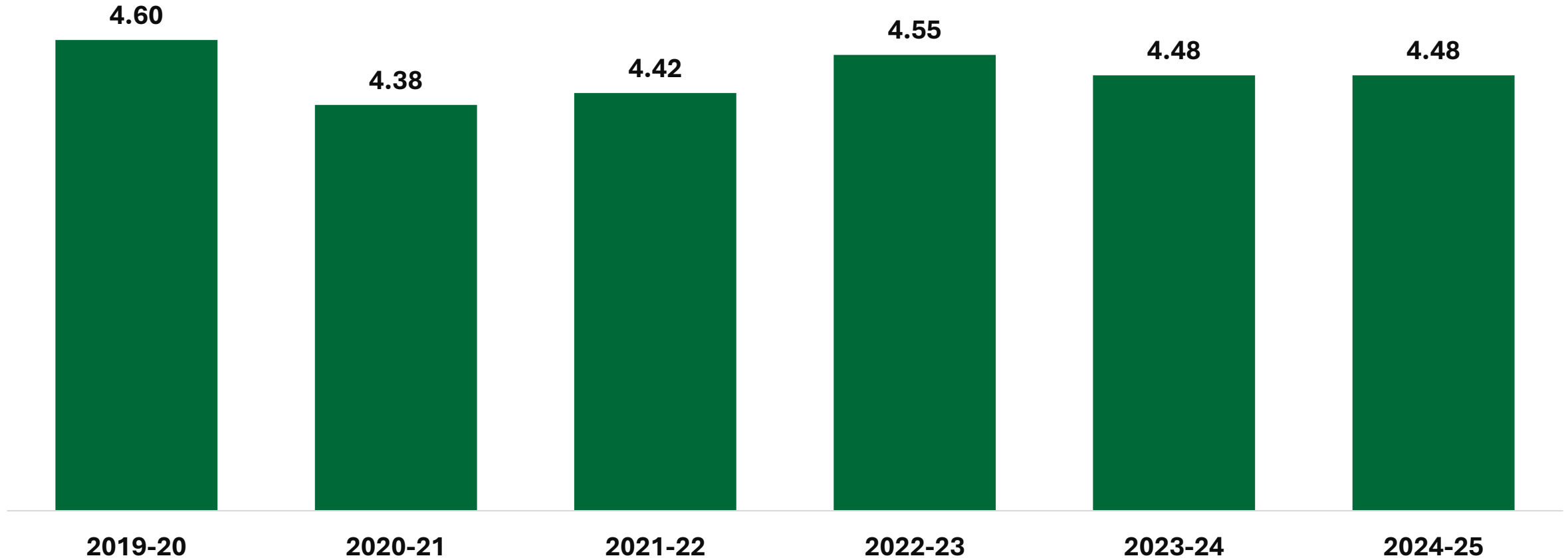
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- AFFORDABILITY

**First-Time Student Unmet Financial Need:** Average annual amount students pay out of pocket after financial aid and student aid index (SAI) are subtracted.



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- AFFORDABILITY

**Time to Degree:** Average number of academic years students are enrolled prior to undergraduate degree completion.



*\*No state targets.*

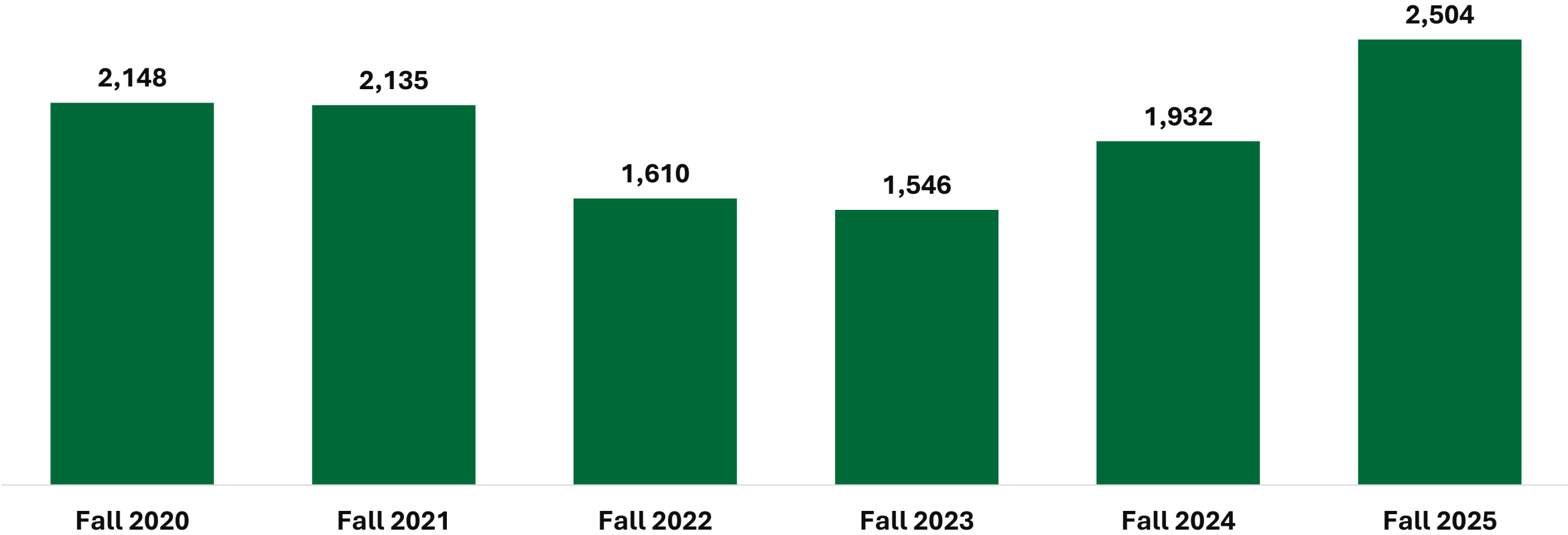
# KEY STRATEGIES ON AFFORDABILITY



- Goal to increase awarded scholarships by 10% annually.
  - Revised scholarship structure
  - Implemented a transfer scholarship
  - New Nursing Scholarship with Frankfort Regional Hospital
  - Increase in National 1890 Scholarship
- Expanded institutional work study
- Expanded grant opportunities
  - Grant for Dual Credit STEM Camp

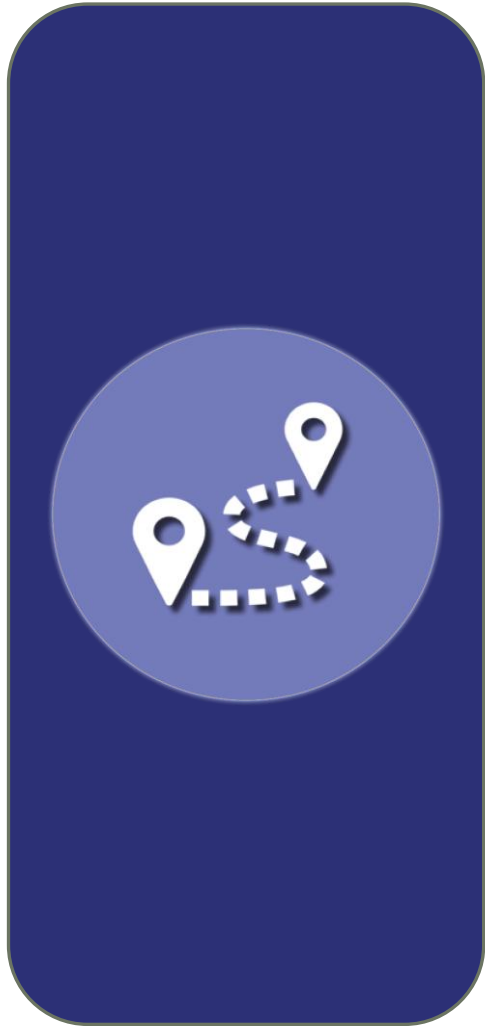
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TRANSITIONS

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** Total unduplicated number of students who enroll in an undergraduate program offered by one of Kentucky’s public colleges or universities in an academic year, either full-time or part-time.



*\*State Target: Total undergraduate enrollment in all sectors of 222,000 by 2030. Total enrollment surpassed 227,000 last fall – CPE is updating target*

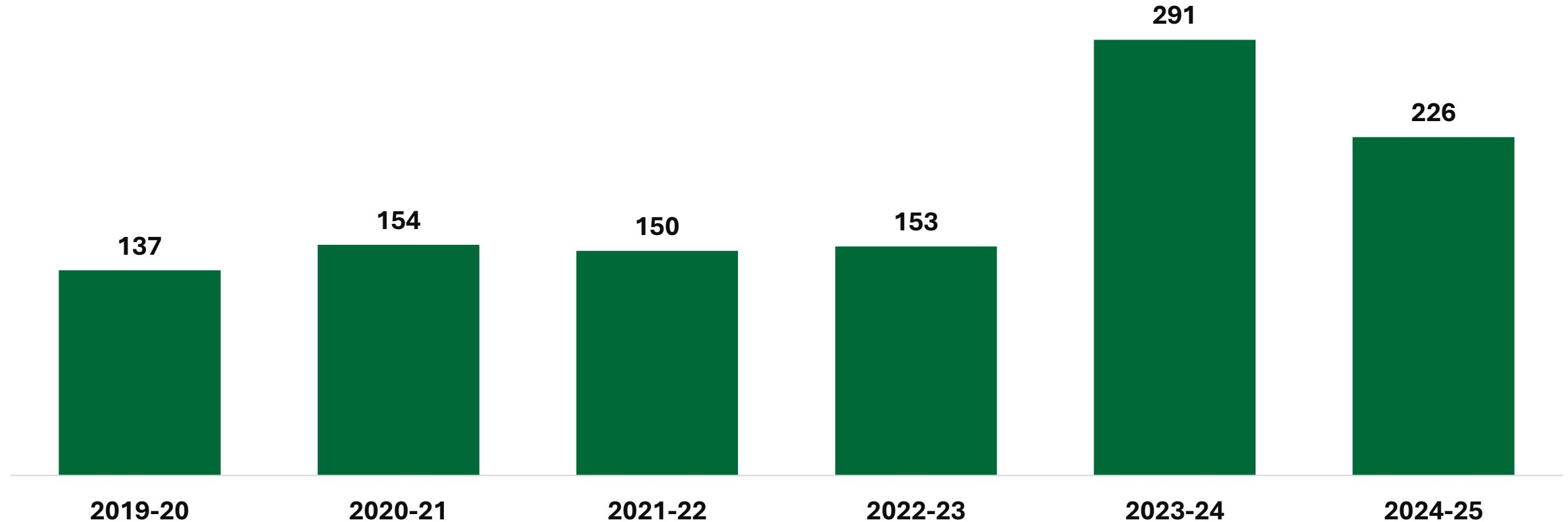
# KEY STRATEGIES ON TRANSITIONS



- Add at least 3 new market-driven programs per year:
  - Added 3 Bachelor Degrees
  - Added 4 Masters Degrees
  - Added 1 Certificate
- Increased enrolled students through intentional recruitment strategies:
  - Direct admittance (2.5 gpa and above)
  - Across Kentucky recruitment campaigns
  - Contiguous state tuition discount
  - Multiple campus preview days
- Continue partnerships to develop interest in KSU
  - “More in Common Alliance” – KSU, Morehouse Medical and CHI Summer Initiative for middle and high school students.

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

**Undergraduate Degrees & Credentials:** Number of bachelor's degrees awarded in an academic year.

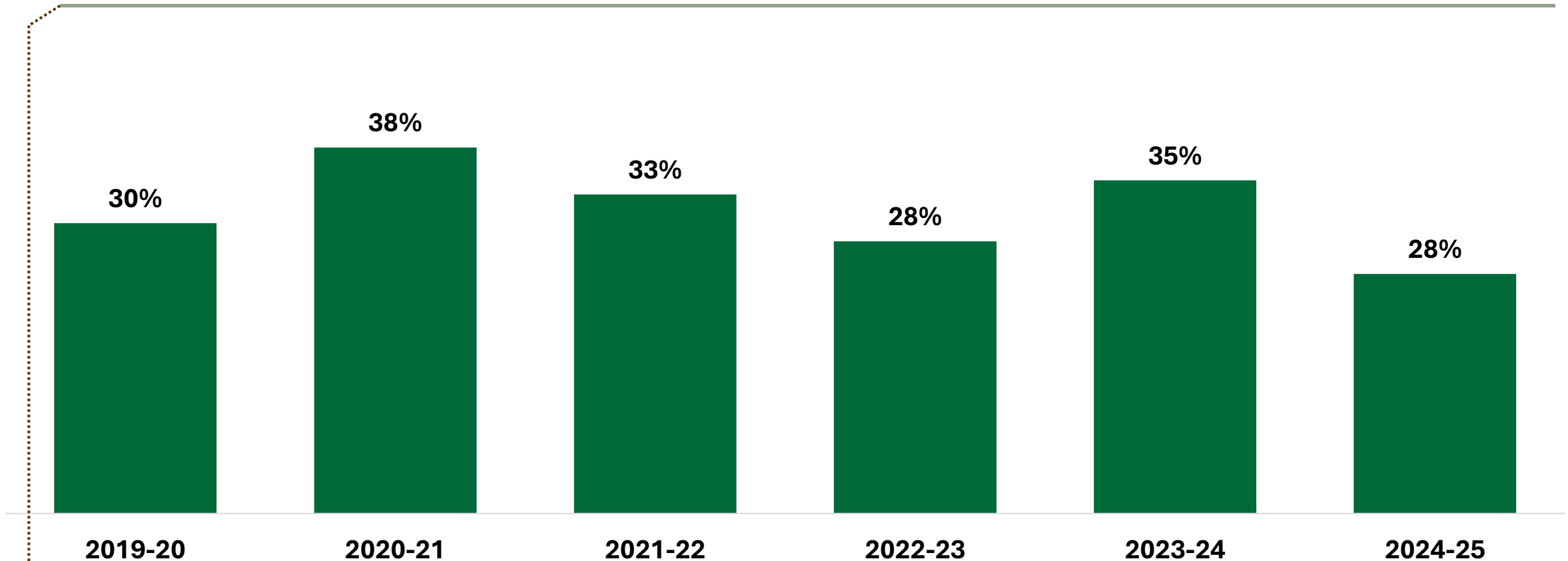


**\*State Target:** To increase Kentucky's bachelor's attainment to the national average (~26% of the working age population) by 2030, the state will need 158,000 new degrees by 2030 (raising average annual production by about 4,000).



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

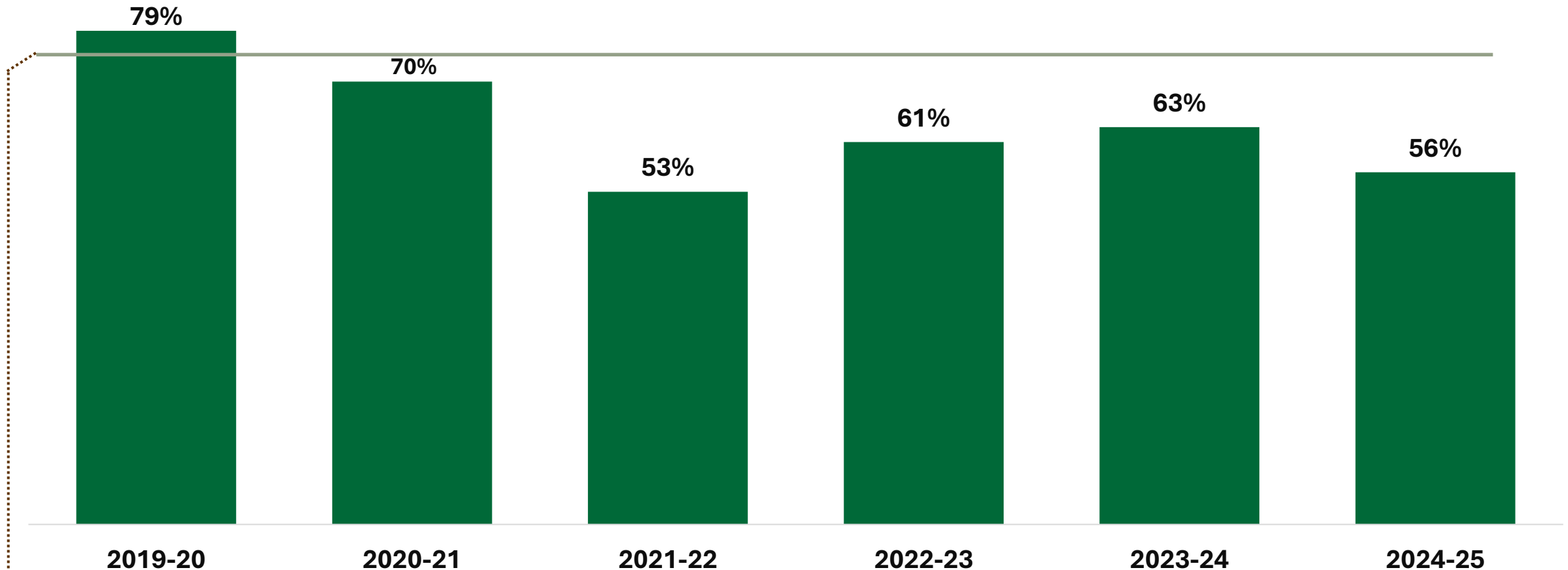
**Graduation Rate:** Percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students who receive an undergraduate degree within 6 years.



**\*Benchmark Data:** The latest available national rate among institutions in the same Carnegie Classifications as Kentucky regional institutions is 52%. The 2030 goal for all Kentucky four-year publics is 65%.

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

**Retention Rate:** Percentage of first-time, degree- or credential-seeking students enrolled in the summer or fall of their first year who are still enrolled at the same institution the following fall.



**\*Benchmark Data:** The latest available national rate among institution in the same Carnegie Classifications as Kentucky regional institutions is 75%. The 2030 goal for all Kentucky four-year publics is 84%

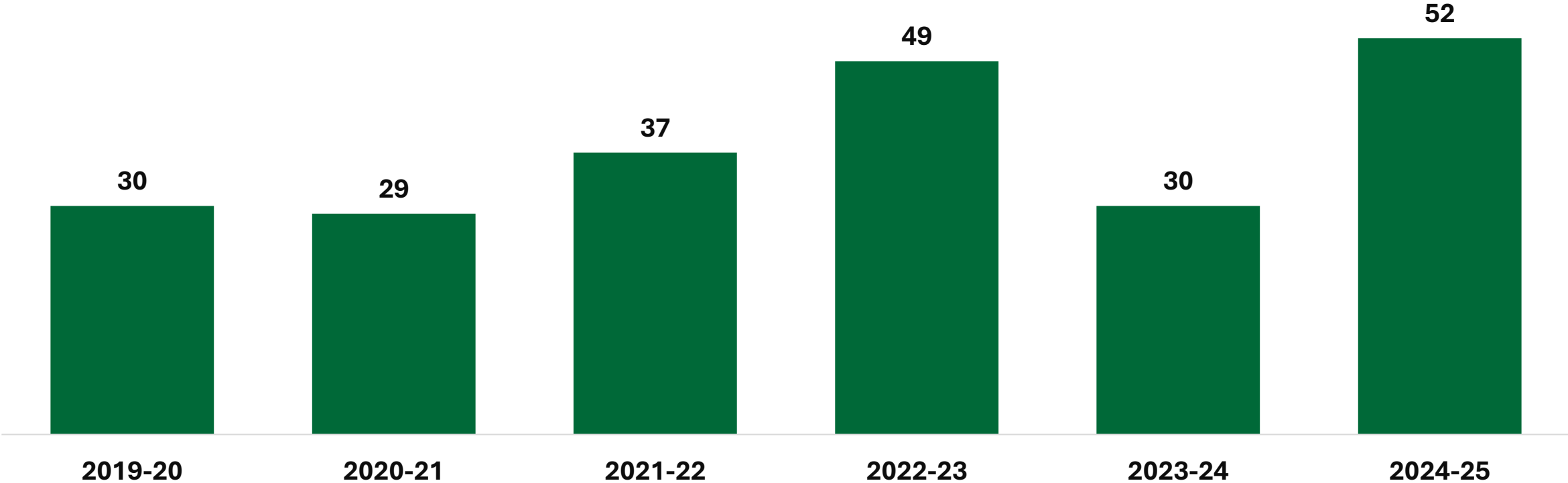
# KEY STRATEGIES ON SUCCESS



- Goal to increase the number of courses while implementing and assessing high-impact practices by 2.5% annually.
  - 151 high-impact courses
- Intentional cohort engagement
- Implemented an early alert system with personalized engagement
- Expanded Peer Tutor program with Honor Colloquium Students
- Expanded mental health services; both online and in-person

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TALENT

**Graduate and Professional Degrees:** Total number of graduate/professional degrees awarded in an academic year.



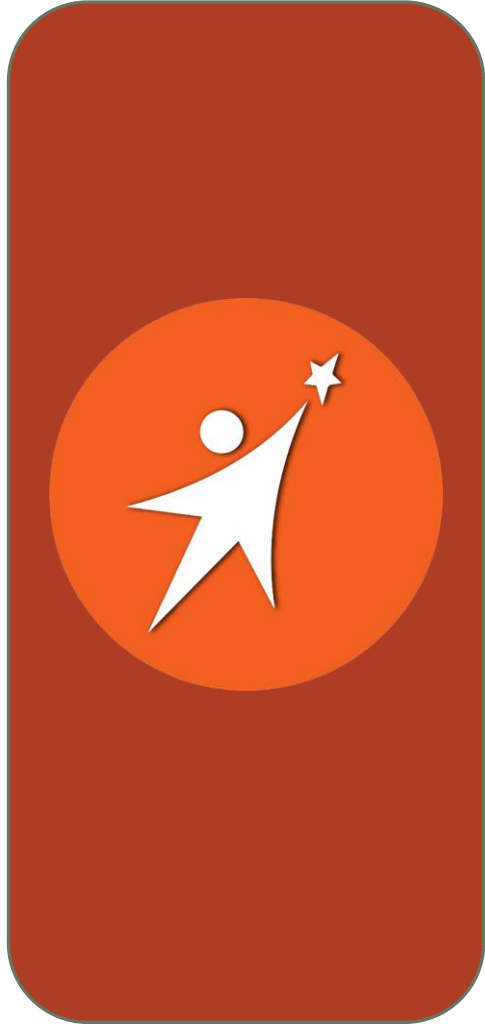
***\*State Target:** To increase Kentucky’s graduate attainment to the national average (17% of the working age population) by 2030, the state will need 127,000 new degrees by 2030 (raising average annual production by about 2,200).*

# KEY STRATEGIES ON TALENT



- Continue to develop STEM and STEM+H pathways.
- Continue to pursue research doctoral pathway.
- Implement a 4 + 1 Masters Degree offering with existing areas.
- Increase student learning opportunities in competitions in respective fields (research presentation, pitch competitions, etc.).

# KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE



- Integrated stackable credentials into degree pathways.
- Continue with the development of the redefined student profile.
- Continue progression and retention efforts through intentional cohort management.



**KENTUCKY STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Proposed New Academic Programs
<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	Sheila Brothers, MPA, Senior Director of Academic Excellence
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED**

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee recommends the Council approve the following proposed new academic programs:

1. Eastern Kentucky University – A.I.S. Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 24.0102)
2. Murray State University – B.S. Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)
3. University of Kentucky – B.S. Agricultural Ecosystem Sciences (CIP 01.1102)
4. University of Kentucky – B.S. Mapping and GIScience (CIP 45.0702)
5. University of Louisville – B.S.B.A. Global Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203)
6. Western Kentucky University – M.S. Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814)
7. Western Kentucky University – B.S. Disaster Science (CIP 43.0302)
8. Western Kentucky University – M.S. Disaster Science (CIP 43.0302)
9. Western Kentucky University – B.S. Environmental, Earth, and Sustainability Sciences (CIP 03.0104)
10. Western Kentucky University – B.A. Integrated Advertising and Public Relations (CIP 09.0900)

**PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS**

Two of the proposed programs (listed below) began the process before the implementation of the revised New Academic Program Approval Policy in September 2025.

1. Eastern Kentucky University – A.I.S. Interdisciplinary Studies (24.0102)
2. University of Kentucky – B.S. Mapping and GIScience (45.0702)

These two programs underwent the approval process in which universities requested student and market demand information from Council staff and then submitted a Notification of Intent (NOI) to propose a new program. Those NOIs were reviewed monthly by public postsecondary chief academic officers, who were encouraged to offer comments. Universities submitted the program proposal for Council staff review. After receiving approval from their governing boards



to offer the program, Council staff vetted and recommended programs for approval by placing them on an ASI Committee agenda.

The remaining programs were proposed after the implementation of the revised [New Academic Program Approval Policy](#) in September 2025 and underwent the approval process described below.

- Universities requested student and market demand information from Council staff and then submitted a Notification of Intent (NOI) to propose a new program.
- Council staff reviewed the NOIs and conducted unnecessary duplication analyses.
- Upon approval of the NOI by Council staff, the program was subject to a two-month program development period, when CAOs could review and offer comments.
- Universities submitted the program proposal for Council staff review.
- Universities received approval from their governing boards to offer the program.
- Programs vetted by Council staff were placed on an ASI Committee agenda.

#### **APPLICABLE STATUTE(S), REGULATION(S), CPE POLICIES**

- [KRS 164.020 \(15\)](#) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.
- [New Academic Program Approval Policy](#)

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Eastern Kentucky University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Interdisciplinary Studies
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies
<b>CIP Code:</b>	24.0102
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	60
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will establish a formal credentialing mechanism for students, particularly adult learners, whose educational trajectories do not follow traditional models. The program will be well suited for students whose academic records reflect non-linear progress, accumulated transfer credit, or interdisciplinary learning that does not align cleanly with traditional major requirements. The proposed program is not designed for recruitment, nor as an entry-point associate degree. Instead, it will be intentionally structured to serve adult learners, returning students, and transfer students who have accumulated significant college credit—but stop out of higher education.

AIS students, with an advisor, can craft a curriculum tailored to the student’s educational history and interests, fulfill graduation requirements, and focus on integrating multiple disciplines to research a specific problem or area. Learners can select up to two “areas of emphasis” at 12 hours each in the areas of: arts; business; science; education; social and behavioral science; health; humanities; and technology.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information;
- Exhibit competent critical reading skills; and
- Demonstrate information literacy, including selecting the best source(s) to inform a specific problem and understanding information in tables and graphs.

A notable characteristic of the proposed program is integration of credit for prior learning (CPL). The AIS degree will support up to 24 hours of CPL at the associate’s level and aligns well with baccalaureate pathways that support credit for prior learning, creating a coherent completion pipeline from workforce to credential to degree.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

Western Kentucky University is the only other university in the state with an AIS degree. The proposed program is different from this program and other associate’s degrees at KCTCS because it will be used as a completion or stop-out completion tool, not to recruit new students.

### **Academic Quality**

The program will embed the [Kentucky Graduate Profile's 10 Essential Skills](#), which will benefit students as they enter the workforce.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 25
- Year 2 – 50
- Year 3 – 75
- Year 4 – 75
- Year 5 – 75

### **Employment Demand**

The Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) degree is not designed to prepare graduates for a single occupation. Instead, it supports degree completion for learners who have already accumulated substantial postsecondary credit and seek a recognized credential that improves employability, job stability, and advancement potential. As such, labor market relevance is best evaluated through “common destination occupations” (roles such as administrative assistants and information and records clerks), whose employers frequently prefer or reward postsecondary credentials even when an associate degree is not the formal minimum requirement.

### **Budget**

The proposed program is a budget-neutral, non-revenue-generating program that ECU will fully support within existing academic and administrative capacity.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 0

**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 0

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Murray State University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Science
<b>CIP Code:</b>	11.0102
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will prepare graduates with the technical depth and applied breadth needed to succeed in today's artificial intelligence (AI) workforce. The program will integrate computing, mathematics, and statistics with focused coursework in AI, machine learning, and deep learning. This will be complemented by applied electives in robotics, natural language processing, computer vision, bioinformatics, and financial technology. In addition to providing instruction on how AI systems are built, the program will also teach students how to collect, manage, and analyze data to drive intelligent decision-making. Faculty engagement in applied AI research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and national initiatives such as the National AI Research Resource reflects the institution's commitment to innovation and student-centered learning.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Build strong computational, mathematical, and statistical foundations for AI;
- Apply linear algebra, calculus, probability, and statistical methods to formulate, analyze, and validate AI models;
- Design, implement, test, and maintain software using professional practices to support AI projects;
- Acquire and manage data, build pipelines, and deploy scalable AI solutions; and
- Train, tune, and compare machine-learning and deep-learning models, select appropriate metrics, and produce reliable predictions.

### **Academic Quality**

The proposed program will incorporate all 10 Essential Skills included in Kentucky's [Graduate Profile](#) framework. Other high-impact practices in the program include:

- A required "First Year Experience" course;
- A capstone course;
- A writing-intensive course;
- Collaborative assignments and projects; and
- Learning communities that support student organizations and shared coursework at the department, college, and university levels.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

This will be the second such program in the state, as the University of Kentucky recently received approval to offer an AI-focused program. Murray State currently offers a computer science bachelor's program with a track in data analysis and AI as well as a certificate in AI. The proposed program will provide a more in-depth education in AI for students who want to specialize in this growing field.

The proposed program is designed to facilitate transfer credit from KCTCS colleges. Murray has KCTCS transfer pathways for two other programs (computer science and computer information systems), and it plans to explore creation of a similar pathway for this the proposed program.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 10
- Year 2 – 20
- Year 3 – 30
- Year 4 – 35
- Year 5 – 40

### **Employment Demand**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects much-faster-than-average growth (43%) in AI-adjacent roles (data scientists, software developers, and computer and information research scientists), with projected annual wages averaging of \$78,336. Ongoing investments in Murray's region, such as a new data center in Clarksville, Tennessee and energy and nuclear-fuel projects in Paducah underpin the growing need for AI talent.

### **Budget**

Existing computer science faculty will teach in the proposed program. All but two of the courses required for the AI program already exist as required or elective computer science courses.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 1,557,756

**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$     47,000

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	University of Kentucky
<b>Program Name:</b>	Agricultural Ecosystem Sciences
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Science
<b>CIP Code:</b>	01.1102
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will equip students with the knowledge and skills required for responsible stewardship of agricultural production systems. Students will learn how to apply advanced methodologies to increase yields from, and improve functionality of, agricultural lands and optimize the local, regional, and global benefits people gain from agricultural ecosystems. The proposed program will be structured around the scientific and technical management of large-scale agricultural production systems as integrated ecosystems. The curriculum will include advanced coursework in crop production, soil and water management, pest management, agricultural economics and policy, geographic information systems (GIS), and applied data analysis.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Describe various components of the agricultural ecosystem and explain how they work together to influence agricultural productivity, environmental quality, and human dimensions;
- Synthesize information to draw conclusions and formulate recommendations that consider economic, social, and environmental aspects;
- Effectively communicate (as individuals and as part of a team) the importance of agriculture and agriculturally related issues, applying multiple viewpoints and using oral, written, and visual formats; and
- Apply fundamental natural, biological, and mathematical principles to solve problems relevant to agricultural ecosystem sciences.

Students in the proposed program will select a Technical Specialization (Agriculture Commerce, Trade and Policy; Farm Operations and Resources; Applied Plant Biology; GIS and Technology Support; Sampling, Testing and Analysis; and Individualized). Students will also select an Applied Specialization (Animal Production Systems; Crop Production Systems; Pest Management; Soil and Water Use and Management; and Individualized).

### **Academic Quality**

The proposed program will incorporate all 10 Essential Skills included in Kentucky's [Graduate Profile](#) framework. This program will incorporate several high impact practices, including:

- Required undergraduate research and internships;
- Common intellectual experiences, such as a two-week summer field experience course where students will visit several farm operations and agricultural sector industries to learn from researchers, extension specialists, and agronomists;
- Writing intensive courses;
- Collaborative assignments and projects; and
- A capstone experience in which students work collaboratively with extension and research faculty to address an issue facing a producer in the region.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

This will be the only program of its kind in the state.

UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment currently offers an "Individualized Agricultural Curriculum" that often serves as an incubator for possible new programs. The proposed program has been offered through this mechanism since 2019 and has grown by an average of five to 10 students per year, with between four and eight student completions per year. UK anticipates the elevation of the individualized curriculum into a stand-alone major will increase student interest.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 5
- Year 2 – 13
- Year 3 – 23
- Year 4 – 35
- Year 5 – 48

### **Employment Demand**

Alumni, employers, and other stakeholders provided valuable insights into the workforce needs that can be addressed by the proposed program. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects occupational growth between 2.5% and 5.8% over the next few years for positions such as farm product buyers and agents, soil and plant scientists, and front-line supervisors of workers in the areas of fishing, farming, and forestry.

### **Budget**

The program will be supported by student tuition. One lecturer will be hired to teach in the program and serve as the director of undergraduate studies.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 2,202,313  
**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 544,750

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	University of Kentucky
<b>Program Name:</b>	Mapping and GIScience
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Science
<b>CIP Code:</b>	45.0702
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will provide instruction in spatial analysis and representation using industry standards in geospatial technology, including open and proprietary geographic information systems (GIS) software. Graduates will be prepared to apply mapping and GIS principles to understand spatial phenomena, while also appreciating the social, political, and ethical dimensions of such expertise. Graduates will use artificial intelligence technologies, machine learning, data analysis, and satellite and remote imagery to address societal challenges, environmental sustainability, and community engagement.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Depict the technological landscape using geospatial software and systems;
- Utilize industry-standard open and proprietary GIS;
- Evaluate, prepare, analyze, represent and visualize geospatial data;
- Apply social, political, and ethical perspectives to evaluate geospatial technologies, processes, and practices; and
- Document and communicate the outcomes of mapping and GIS processes.

### **Academic Quality**

Students will enroll in an internship that will provide a supervised professional experience in a public or private sector position, which will expose students to the skills and working environments of careers in mapping and geography.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

UK currently offers a Mapping and GIS minor, as well as a track in Mapping and GIS in the existing bachelor's program in Geography. Students enrolled in other programs, such as Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Public Health, and Landscape Architecture frequently request more coursework in Mapping and GIScience, which the proposed program will provide.

The department has the expert faculty and recently expanded state-of-the art teaching labs necessary to successfully implement the proposed program.



### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 10
- Year 2 – 23
- Year 3 – 43
- Year 4 – 68
- Year 5 – 91

### **Employment Demand**

Regional and state labor market projections for surveyors suggest 7% expected growth, with an annual average salary of \$69,900. For cartographers, 2% growth is projected, with annual wages of \$46,800. Projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest similar growth at the national level.

### **Budget**

The program will be funded through institutional allocation models and supported by tuition revenue from new enrollments. Because it builds on existing courses, faculty expertise, and newly expanded teaching laboratories, start-up costs are minimal.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 2,878,416  
**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 307,340

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	University of Louisville
<b>Program Name:</b>	Global Supply Chain Management
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
<b>CIP Code:</b>	52.0203
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	7/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will prepare students to manage supply chains across international borders and understand how to adapt processes and approaches to incorporate the impact of customs, regulations, and cultural differences on business practices. Global supply chain management involves active management of an organization's relationships across borders to maximize customer value and achieve a sustainable competitive advantage. Graduates will be prepared to manage the flow of goods, data, and finances related to a product or service.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Apply concepts of supply chain planning, operations, procurement, and distribution to improve organizational performance;
- Communicate and collaborate effectively with cross-functional and non-supply chain partners to develop and present solutions;
- Develop and evaluate supply chain strategies that align with corporate objectives and incorporate ethical decision-making; and
- Adapt supply chain processes to manage effectively across international borders, incorporating customs regulations and cultural considerations.

### **Academic Quality**

The proposed program will incorporate all 10 Essential Skills included in Kentucky's [Graduate Profile](#) framework. Other high-impact practices in the program will include internships and co-op experiences, community-based learning, global learning, and a capstone course.

The program will leverage an advisory board of regional supply chain leaders to include real-world case studies and community-based learning opportunities.

UofL's College of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and it will seek accreditation for the proposed program.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

The only other bachelor's level program is at Murray State University. This proposed program would offer a new opportunity to partner with the Kentucky Community and Technical College

System. Currently, KCTCS offers an associate's degree in Supply Chain Management at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College and an associate's degree in Logistics and Operations Management at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Furthermore, all 16 KCTCS colleges offer an associate's degree in Business Administration. These associate-level programs fulfill many of the core requirements for the BSBA and will enable students to seamlessly transition into the proposed program.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 25
- Year 2 – 59
- Year 3 – 97
- Year 4 – 141
- Year 5 – 163

### **Employment Demand**

Louisville's geographic location and accessibility by road, river, and air results in it being a major distribution center for multiple large and multi-national organizations, many of which have hubs at Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, one of the nation's busiest cargo operations. The program's learning outcomes were developed in partnership with supply chain leaders from major Louisville-area organizations including UPS, Brown Forman, Amazon, and DHL.

Currently, there is a significant statewide shortage of supply chain expertise. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a "much faster than average" 18% job growth for logisticians, including supply chain managers, over the next 10 years. Within Kentucky, supply chain professionals represent one of the fastest growing career fields with a projected 10-year job increase of 34%.

### **Budget**

One new full-time faculty member with teaching and course development responsibilities will be needed at the outset. Two part-time lecturers will likely be required by the third year. The provost's office will provide start-up costs for the program for the first two years, and the proposed program is expected to be self-supporting by the third year.

<b>Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	<b>\$ 1,819,315</b>
<b>Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	<b>\$ 158,053</b>

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Western Kentucky University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Applied Behavior Analysis
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Master of Science
<b>CIP Code:</b>	42.2814
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	40
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will prepare graduates for certification as Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA), to improve the lives of individuals needing behavioral support across their lifespan. The program will integrate coursework, supervised practica, and internships with a focus on early childhood, school-aged, and adult populations. Students will develop skills in behavioral assessment, intervention design, research methods, and ethical practice while applying evidence-based strategies in real-world settings.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of applied behavior analysis concepts and skills;
- Apply skills related to behavior assessment, behavior-change procedures, selecting and implementing intervention, and personnel supervision and management; and
- Exhibit professional and ethical conduct in classroom, clinical, and community settings.

WKU offers unique applied learning experiences through initiatives such as the Kelly Autism Program, the Clinical Education Complex, and community-based partnerships that provide students with hands-on BCBA training opportunities.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

Similar programs exist in the state, but not within southcentral Kentucky. Capacity constraints are also a concern, as existing programs across the state must adhere to accreditors' limits on faculty-student ratios and program size.

### **Academic Quality**

While an undergraduate program provides a general foundation in behavioral principles and prepares students for entry-level roles such as behavior technicians or classroom aide, a graduate-level program will provide specialized coursework, supervised fieldwork, and training in areas such as assessment, intervention design, and ethics. Professionals with a graduate degree and BCBA certification typically earn between 30–50% more than those with an undergraduate degree.

The Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex (CEC) at WKU will serve as a primary clinical site, providing rich, hands-on training experiences for graduate students. In addition, strong partnerships exist with local agencies that provide Applied Behavior Analysis services in the Bowling Green area

Graduates are required to successfully complete a capstone project. Successful completion of the ABA program ensures graduates will have met required the coursework requirements for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) Certification Examination. Graduates who successfully complete the program, earn a passing score on the BCBA certification examination, and complete approved, supervised fieldwork are eligible to apply as a board-certified behavior analyst.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 16
- Year 2 – 32
- Year 3 – 38
- Year 4 – 38
- Year 5 – 38

### **Employment Demand**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects over 500 open BCBA positions statewide in the next few years. Average salaries regionally are about \$75,000, although the annual wage is slightly higher (\$77,364) at the state level.

### **Budget**

The program will be supported by two faculty lines that will provide a balanced approach to research productivity and high-quality student support, creating a sustainable structure in which the program can meet accreditation and disciplinary expectations for research while maintaining the high-touch, practice-oriented mentorship needed by students in applied fields.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 1,986,104

**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 1,390,906

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Western Kentucky University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Disaster Science
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Science
<b>CIP Code:</b>	43.0302
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will provide foundational knowledge in hazard identification, emergency management principles, disaster mitigation, response operations, and recovery planning, while building core competencies in communication, critical thinking, and applied field practices appropriate for entry-level or mid-level positions in public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The program will prepare graduates to function effectively in all phases of the disaster cycle, with particular focus on preparedness, prevention, and mitigation efforts to lessen the potential for loss of life, property, and environmental impacts.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Apply key concepts related to all phases of disasters, including prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery;
- Develop and test mitigation and response plans by applying a variety of tools including planning and response frameworks, geographic information systems, and risk assessments;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of various disaster planning and response tools when applied to actual locations and scenarios; and
- Create comprehensive emergency operations plans, multi-hazard mitigation plans, exercises, training programs, and communication plans and outputs designed to improve outcomes of future disasters.

Disaster Science aligns closely with the professional experiences of veterans and first responders, building on military training, emergency services certifications, and Federal Emergency Management Agency training. The proposed degree program will intentionally engage post-traditional learners, veterans, justice-involved individuals, and other non-traditional students by offering flexible course delivery (online, hybrid, evening, and accelerated formats) and clear workforce-aligned pathways into high-demand careers.

### **Academic Quality**

The proposed program will incorporate all 10 Essential Skills included in Kentucky's [Graduate Profile](#) framework. Other high-impact practices in the program include undergraduate research, internships, collaborative assignments and projects, and service-learning.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

No similar bachelor's level programs exist within Kentucky. The proposed program will provide students in geological sciences, geographic studies, sustainability, and the environment with the opportunity to declare Disaster Science as a double major. Students may also earn an undergraduate certificate in related fields, such as fire science, occupational safety and health, public health, and sport management.

WKU's existing Data Science Operations Center provides students with opportunities to conduct applied research and gain skills-based knowledge at the local and national levels. One example is WKU students' support of the Chicago Marathon, where they gather and share weather and preparedness data with event organizers.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 15
- Year 2 – 25
- Year 3 – 40
- Year 4 – 60
- Year 5 – 70

### **Employment Demand**

The proposed program will prepare graduates for operational and technical roles in disaster management.

For business continuity planner positions alone, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 8,500 job openings over the next 10 years at the national level. Within the state, 4% growth in this field is expected, with 90 openings per year and an average annual salary of \$82,492.

### **Budget**

No new faculty will be needed initially, and existing faculty will cover first-year coursework. A new faculty line will be requested in the second year of the program.

<b>Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	<b>\$ 3,077,522</b>
<b>Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	<b>\$ 540,217</b>

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Western Kentucky University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Disaster Science
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Master of Science
<b>CIP Code:</b>	43.0302
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	30
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will build upon the knowledge students gained at the bachelor's level by emphasizing advanced analytical skills, research methods, leadership, policy development, and strategic decision-making in complex disaster environments. Students will synthesize interdisciplinary theory, conduct applied or scholarly research, evaluate disaster policies and systems, and demonstrate executive-level leadership capacity. Graduates of the proposed program can expect a wage premium when compared with those holding a bachelor's degree, largely because advanced degrees will lead to higher-level roles and leadership positions with greater responsibilities.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Identify, analyze, and evaluate natural and human-made hazards using scientific and data-driven approaches;
- Conduct risk and vulnerability assessments to inform disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies;
- Assess post-disaster impacts and recommend recovery strategies that promote long-term resilience; and
- Utilize geographic information systems, remote sensing, forecasting techniques, and other emerging technologies for disaster risk reduction, response, and mitigation planning.

In line with WKU's graduate academic policies, master's students will be permitted to apply up to 12 credit hours of prior learning as credit toward the master's degree.

### **Academic Quality**

Students in the proposed program will engage in applied research, such as improving risk assessment processes, evaluating public emergency warning systems, and developing methods to measure and predict heat effects on workers and athletes. Guided by faculty mentorship and in collaboration with partners such as emergency management agencies and healthcare systems, students will conduct research and participate in internships, training exercises, and operational support during emergencies and planned events, gaining hands-on



experience while building professional networks and developing practical skills in risk assessment, incident coordination, data analysis, and crisis decision-making.

Students will complete a capstone project or a traditional research project with thesis.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

This proposed program will replace the current Emergency Management Disaster Science option within the Homeland Security Sciences master's degree program. WKU anticipates that approximately 10% of master's students will matriculate from the proposed bachelor's program.

Students may complete a related graduate certificate program with minimal additional coursework.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 6
- Year 2 – 16
- Year 3 – 30
- Year 4 – 37
- Year 5 – 45

### **Employment Demand**

Graduates of the proposed program will be well suited for senior leadership roles, conducting research, and serving in policy-focused positions related to disaster management and homeland security enterprises.

At the national level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 10% growth in positions such as disaster program managers, which have an annual salary of \$94,997 and more than a thousand job openings. At the state level, at least 25 – 30 disaster program manager job postings are expected annually, with expected 10% growth and an average salary of \$91,360.

### **Budget**

Some existing faculty will teach in the proposed program, and the new faculty line associated with the proposed BS Disaster Science will also be involved in this proposed program. WKU is budgeting for three graduate assistantships per year.

**Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 1,810,151  
**Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):**     \$ 657,455

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Western Kentucky University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Environmental, Earth, and Sustainability Sciences
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Sciences
<b>CIP Code:</b>	03.0104
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will provide graduates with the skills needed for occupations related to natural resources, water and waste management, geospatial analytics, sustainability planning, conservation, and geotechnical/engineering support. After core coursework in scientific and data analytics, students will receive instruction in environmental science, geology, hydrology/karst, human-environment systems, climate and sustainability, geospatial analytics (GIS/remote sensing), geostatistics, and technical writing

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Apply fundamental environmental, Earth, and sustainability principles to analyze the interdependence of natural and human processes;
- Utilize appropriate field and laboratory techniques to collect, analyze, and interpret datasets related to the environment, Earth, and sustainability, demonstrating awareness of data quality and uncertainty; and
- Evaluate contemporary earth- and environment-related challenges through social, cultural, and ethical lenses; develop evidence-based, sustainable solutions; and effectively communicate findings to technical and public audiences.

Students will choose from one of two tracks: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences, or Environmental and Geological Sciences.

### **Academic Quality**

In addition to the focus on the 10 Essential Skills of the Kentucky Graduate Profile, the proposed program will incorporate multiple high impact practices:

- Scaffolded, writing-intensive, and collaborative assignments;
- Undergraduate research opportunities;
- Community-based and service learning through partnerships on water, karst, and hazard issues;
- Internships or supervised research experiences; and
- A capstone course/project that culminates in a professional report or presentation.

Students will have access to WKU's existing, applied learning facilities, such as the Center for Human-GeoEnvironmental Studies, Crawford Hydrology Laboratory, Disaster Science Operations Center, Kentucky Climate Center, HydroAnalytical Lab, and the Kentucky Mesonet.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

WKU currently offers a bachelor's program in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies and a bachelor's program in Geological Sciences. The proposed program will be a merger of these two programs, reducing duplication and modernizing the curriculum while preserving geology pathways that lead to licensure and clear workforce pipelines.

WKU will provide transfer guidance so students from KCTCS and other institutions can move efficiently into the major and complete the program on time.

An optional Geographic Information Systems certificate can also be earned by students along the way to completion of the bachelor's degree.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 120
- Year 2 – 130
- Year 3 – 140
- Year 4 – 150
- Year 5 – 160

### **Employment Demand**

The program is aligned with regional and statewide workforce needs and is structured to attract students into career pathways with strong demand, including environmental consulting, GIS and geospatial technology, water resources, environmental compliance, hazard assessment, and related public-sector and private-sector fields in Kentucky. Occupational projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest a thousand job postings in this field in the next few years. Salaries at the regional and state levels are projected to average \$58,420, annually.

### **Budget**

The work associated with the proposed program is already being carried out as part of current workloads. No funds will be reallocated from existing budget lines or sources.

<b>Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	<b>\$ 13,443,232</b>
<b>Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	<b>\$ 5,076,052</b>

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

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<b>Institution:</b>	Western Kentucky University
<b>Program Name:</b>	Integrated Advertising and Public Relations
<b>Degree Designation:</b>	Bachelor of Arts
<b>CIP Code:</b>	09.0900
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	120
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	8/1/2026

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed program will prepare students to thrive in a professional workplace that has increasingly shifted to an integrated approach to advertising and public relations. Students will develop skills in cross-platform content creation, integrated campaign analytics, and unified messaging, resulting in a well-rounded and adaptable knowledge base desired by advertising and public relations organizations. Most graduates will enter the workforce directly after graduation, but some may choose to pursue advanced schooling in a variety of fields, including law (for students interested in media law, intellectual property, or corporate communications).

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles and laws of freedom of speech/press, professional ethics, cultural proficiency, and the historical role of media institutions in shaping communications;
- Apply analytical reasoning skills using appropriate tools and technology in the research, presentation, and evaluation of information;
- Develop knowledge and skills required for campaign research, database strategy, effective decision making, planning, and evaluation in the advertising and public relations fields; and
- Exhibit proficiency in industry-standard advertising and public relations technologies for actionable media planning, media monitoring, content creation, and campaign reporting, analytics, and evaluation.

In addition to foundational courses, students will select a track in either Advertising or Public Relations.

### **Academic Quality**

The proposed program will incorporate all 10 Essential Skills included in Kentucky's [Graduate Profile](#) framework. WKU was recently reaccredited by the Commission on Public Relations Accreditation and will also seek reaccreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications in the next cycle.

Many of the courses across the proposed curriculum require student research. Further, each student is required to take a research class in the major. Most of these courses are also writing intensive as students work on several short or a few longer campaigns across the curriculum. Students are also required to take a class that focuses on global learning. Several classes work with campus and community partners, students are encouraged to complete internships as part of their elective sequence, and all students finish with a capstone course aimed at integrating learning from across the curriculum. Further, to demonstrate mastery of these skills, students will develop robust ePortfolios. These portfolios will serve as a centralized repository for the certifications and case studies completed during the program.

### **Connection to Other Programs**

The proposed program is a consolidation of two existing programs - Advertising and Public Relations. There are related certificate programs as well, including Digital Advertising, Personal Branding, and Strategic Communications. This will be the only program of its kind in Kentucky.

### **Student Demand**

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

- Year 1 – 150
- Year 2 – 170
- Year 3 – 210
- Year 4 – 235
- Year 5 – 250

### **Employment Demand**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects thousands of open positions nationally. Hundreds of positions will be available in WKU's region and at the state level. The average annual salary for advertising and promotion managers is \$98,720. Public relations managers can have an average annual salary of \$114,070.

### **Budget**

The vast majority of necessary resources and personnel are already in place, therefore new expenditures will be minimal.

<b>Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	\$ 14,229,532
<b>Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):</b>	\$ 2,116,502

<b>TOPIC:</b>	KCTCS Programs approved between Jan. 2026 – Mar. 2026
<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	Sheila Brothers, MPA Senior Director of Academic Excellence
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF TOPIC**

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received a report that Council staff reviewed and approved the following 2-year program. No further action is needed.

Maysville Community and Technical College - Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Technology (47.0604)

The program prepares graduates for entry-level service technician jobs in the auto repair industry. Maysville’s existing Automotive Technology diploma program averages 20 students per year, and the associate’s degree program is expected to draw new students. Most students will have the opportunity to perform work in real-world settings. Graduates will be eligible to take the Automotive Service Association’s Entry Level Exam.

**APPLICABLE STATUTE(S), REGULATION(S), CPE POLICIES**

- KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature.

**APPROVAL PROCESS**

Associate degree programs of a vocational/technical/occupational nature (i.e. AAS) undergo the following process for approval:

- KCTCS posts a proposal to the program approval system. Institutions and Council staff have 30 days to respond.
- If no issues are identified, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item to the Council.
- If issues are identified, the institution addresses those through the program approval system, and the review period is extended. Once the issues are resolved, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item at the next Council meeting.

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Annual Report of Academic Programs Academic Year 2024-25
<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	Sheila Brothers, MPA Senior Director of Academic Excellence
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF TOPIC**

Staff provided to the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee an overview of the new, closed, and reviewed academic programs during the 2024-25 academic year. No action is needed by the Council.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

The Council is the approving body for academic programs at Kentucky's public institutions. KRS 164.020(15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degrees at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. This statutory duty is operationalized through the Council's [New Academic Program Approval Policy](#), which was last updated in September 2025. However, all programs included in this report were subject to the policy in effect prior to September 2025.

The Council also has the authority to review programs after they are implemented. Under KRS 164.020 (16), the Council has the authority to eliminate or modify existing programs using the criteria of consistency with institutional mission, alignment with the statewide strategy agenda, elimination of unnecessary duplication, and the creation of collaborative programs. This statutory duty is operationalized through two Council policies – the [Statewide Academic Program Review Policy](#), which was last revised in June 2021, and the [Statewide Academic Review for KCTCS](#), which was approved in January 2023.

**NEW PROGRAM APPROVALS IN 2024-25**

A total of 30 new academic degree programs were approved during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Eleven (11) of these were approved at KCTCS colleges:

- Ashland Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Additive Technology
- Elizabethtown Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Automation, Industrial, and Robotics Technology
- Gateway Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Computer Engineering Technology
- Hazard Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts
- Hazard Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Health Science Technology
- Hazard Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Nuclear Medicine Imaging
- Henderson Community College – Associate of Applied Science in Education
- Maysville Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Civil Engineering Technology
- Maysville Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology
- Maysville Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic
- Somerset Community College – Associate of Applied Science in Human and Social Services

The Council approved a total of 19 academic degree programs for universities: one associate's program, seven bachelor's degrees, seven master's degrees, and four doctoral degrees.

- Kentucky State University
  - Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy
  - Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
  - Master of Science in Sports Analytics
  - Master of Science in Biological and Agricultural Engineering
  - Master of Social Work in Social Work
- Morehead State University
  - Master's of Social Work in Social Work
  - Doctor of Engineering in Systems Engineering
- Murray State University
  - Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene
  - Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership Studies
- University of Kentucky
  - Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics
  - Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence



- Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science
- Bachelor of Science in Surgical First Assistant
- Master of Accountancy in Accountancy and Analytics
- Doctor of Audiology in Audiology
- Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Informatics and Data Science
- University of Louisville
  - Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders
  - Doctor of Philosophy in Translational Bioengineering
- Western Kentucky University
  - Bachelor of Science in User Experience

## **REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS IN 2024-25**

Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions (to grow, sustain, fix, or sunset), and plans for the upcoming year. (In many instances, programmatic decisions are carried out in the year following program review.)

### Eastern Kentucky University

At EKU, programs were evaluated and assigned scores based on the following metrics: enrollment counts, enrollment trends over a three-year “lookback” window; degrees awarded; degree-award trends; and ratio of degrees to enrollment. Programs with the highest scores were given an expedited review. Those with moderate scores had a streamlined review, and programs with the lowest scores were subject to comprehensive review. Meetings with stakeholders were held throughout the process, with the outcomes reported to institutional leadership, including the Faculty Senate, Board of Regents, President and Cabinet, deans, and chairs.

### Kentucky State University

Kentucky State University academic stakeholders participated in a series of workshops to review the programs identified as "fix to sunset or fix to sustain" during the 2022-2023 program viability study. All KSU's academic programs were reviewed using program economics and market data.

### Morehead State University

Morehead State University's program review began with members of the Deans Council reviewing the program review model that was adopted in 2021-22. The college deans met and discussed the data, set criteria, and established a timeline. Each dean was given relevant data from the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis (enrollment and retention data related to first-year students; graduation rates; student credit hours by full-time enrollment; and quality enhancement plan participation. The deans then disseminated the data to the program faculty for review.

### Murray State University

Murray State University's program review included an evaluation of a program's three-year average headcount, three-year average number of degrees awarded, three-year average of first-to-second year retention, and a three-year average of undergraduate credit hours taught per department. (Evaluation of graduate programs included eight-year averages.) Scores were given to individual programs based on the institution's analysis. Results were evaluated in consultation with program directors, department chairs, and deans.

### Northern Kentucky University

NKU's annual program review process consisted of regular meetings with deans and others overseeing the programs undergoing a review. Programs were evaluated based on centrality to institutional mission, high-impact practices, average student credit hours in the major, and a five-year review of student learning outcome assessment strategies, results and changes made to improve student learning. The college deans then distributed the program review templates to the programs due for review. Regular follow-ups were sent to the deans to request progress updates and provide guidance or help address questions as programs are being reviewed. Subsequent meetings were scheduled at the request of deans or the academic department. Once programs addressed the template's data, the program review report was sent to the deans for review and approval before final submission to the Office of the Provost.

### University of Kentucky

UK's academic program review process was conducted at the department level. Each academic unit was encouraged to facilitate a collaborative self-study process that involved faculty, staff, and other constituents. Data reviewed included five-year trends in enrollment, degree conferrals, faculty attrition, attempted versus earned credit hours and faculty research productivity. Following self-study, an external review committee was developed by each academic dean. These committees were charged by the dean to review and summarize the self-study and then to make at least five recommendations for improvements to each academic unit. Finally, the department had a conversation with the dean to create an implementation plan to guide the department's continuous improvement activities.

### University of Louisville

UofL's review process began with unit-level Program Review orientation meetings and a deadline for submitting reports. Next, the Academic Program Review Committee reviewed all reports to identify areas of commendation, needs, and/or areas for improvement in alignment with university mission, goals, and initiatives. After each committee meeting, the Program Review Coordinator sent a revision request to the reviewed academic programs that summarized the committee's concerns and questions. After a program submitted its revised report, the revised report was forwarded for additional review by the Academic Program Review Committee. Committee members then provided the Provost with a recommendation to fix, sunset, sustain, or grow a program.

### Western Kentucky University

Western Kentucky University used two processes to review academic programs – the Program Sustainability Check-up and Academic Program Review. The Program Sustainability Check-up quickly and efficiently identified programs that needed to improve their long-term viability. The Academic Program Review process evaluated educational program quality and provided an opportunity to reflect upon program content, curricular delivery, and research.

## **RESULTS OF INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESSES**

During the 2024-25 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 293 academic programs and described institutional plans for each program reviewed.

- 46 programs were recommended to grow.
- 151 programs were recommended to sustain.
- 46 programs were recommended to be fixed.
- 50 programs were recommended to close.

Of the 50 programs that were set to close, forty-six were certificates. Eastern Kentucky University closed 29 certificates, Kentucky State University closed 10 certificates, the University of Kentucky closed five certificates, and the University of Louisville closed two certificates. Other programs set to close included:

- Eastern Kentucky University - Closed an undergraduate diploma in Fermentation Science and a bachelor's program in English and History Teaching, both due to low enrollments and a desire to strategically redistribute resources.
- University of Kentucky - Closed a master's program in Supply Chain Engineering to reallocate resources to support emerging fields with greater long-term impact.
- Western Kentucky University - Closed an associate's program in Organizational Supervision, due to declining enrollment and completions.

<b>TOPIC/TITLE:</b>	Proposed Tuition and Fees, Academic year 2026-27 Murray State University
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Bill Payne, Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs Adam Blevins, Director, Finance Policy and Programs
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED**

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve Murray State University’s tuition and fee proposal for academic year 2026-27.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

On April 17, 2025, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approved tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27 for Kentucky’s public postsecondary institutions. Among the parameters adopted at that meeting was a requirement that annual resident undergraduate base rates at the comprehensive universities increase by no more than \$630.00 over two years and increase by no more than \$420.00 in any one year.

On March 18, 2026, Murray State University submitted a tuition and fee proposal for the upcoming academic year (i.e., 2026-27) to the Council, requesting an increase in their resident undergraduate base rate of \$210.00 or 2.0% over the current year rate. Staff reviewed the university’s proposed tuition and fee charges for every degree level, residency designation, and attendance status and determined that they comply with Council approved parameters. The university’s governing board approved the proposed rates at their February 27, 2026, meeting.

**COUNCIL APPROVED TUITION AND FEE CEILINGS**

On April 17, 2025, the Council approved resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27 that equated to:

- Maximum base rate increases of no more than \$675.<sup>00</sup> over two years, and no more than \$450.<sup>00</sup> in any one year, for public research universities.
- Maximum base rate increases of no more than \$630.<sup>00</sup> over two years, and no more than \$420.<sup>00</sup> in any one year, for comprehensive universities.

- Maximum base rate increases of no more than \$9.<sup>00</sup> per credit hour over two years, and no more than \$6.<sup>00</sup> per credit hour in any one year, for students attending KCTCS institutions.

At that same meeting, it was determined that the public institutions shall be allowed to submit for Council review and approval:

- Nonresident undergraduate tuition and fee rates that comply with the Council's *Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy*, or otherwise adhere to provisions of an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and an institution; and
- Market competitive tuition and fee rates for graduate and online courses.

Resident undergraduate tuition ceilings approved by the Council apply to each institution's base rate charge. Base rates are defined as total tuition and fees, minus any Special Use Fees and Asset Preservation Fees previously approved by the Council, and minus an agency bond fee at KCTCS (i.e., BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness Fee). Council staff deduct these fees from total tuition and fees before applying rate increase parameters, which keeps the fees at a fixed amount until they expire.

### **MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY'S PROPOSAL**

On June 6, 2025, Murray State University (MuSU) submitted a tuition and fee proposal for academic year 2025-26 to the Council. In that proposal, the university requested an increase in its annual base rate charge for resident undergraduate students of \$420.<sup>00</sup>, which equaled the maximum one-year increase allowed under the Council's two-year ceilings. CPE staff reviewed MuSU's proposal, found that it complied with Council parameters, and recommended approval. The university's tuition and fee proposal for academic year 2025-26 was approved by the Council at its June 13, 2025, meeting.

Given the two-year ceilings for a comprehensive university adopted by the Council and given the \$420.<sup>00</sup> increase in resident undergraduate rates implemented by MuSU for the current year (i.e., 2025-26), the residual maximum allowable increase in resident undergraduate base rates is \$210.<sup>00</sup> for academic year 2026-27. This residual was calculated by subtracting the amount of increase in MuSU's 2025-26 annual resident undergraduate rate (i.e., \$420.<sup>00</sup>) from the maximum allowable increase over two years for a comprehensive university adopted by the Council (i.e., \$630.<sup>00</sup>).

On March 18, 2026, Murray State University submitted a tuition proposal for academic year 2026-27 to the Council. CPE staff reviewed the university's proposed tuition and fee charges for every degree level, residency designation, and attendance status and determined that they comply with the two-year ceilings for resident undergraduate base rates and with nonresident undergraduate, graduate, and online student parameters adopted by the Council at its April 17, 2025, meeting.

Specifically, the proposed increase in resident undergraduate rate (i.e., +\$210.<sup>00</sup>) does not exceed the residual maximum allowable increase (i.e., +\$210.<sup>00</sup>), the proposed nonresident undergraduate rate is well aligned with a previously approved MOU between MuSU and the Council, and the university is charging market competitive rates for graduate and on-line students. Murray State University’s proposed rates were approved by the university’s governing board at their February 27, 2026, meeting.

Murray State University’s proposed tuition and fee base rates by degree level and residency designation are shown in Table 1 below. As can be seen in the table, between academic years 2025-26 and 2026-27, the university is proposing to increase its annual base-rate charge for resident undergraduate students from \$10,320 to \$10,530, respectively, resulting in an increase of \$210.<sup>00</sup> or 2.0 percent. MuSU is proposing to increase its base-rate charge for nonresident undergraduates from \$20,676 to \$21,096, an increase of \$420.<sup>00</sup> or 2.0 percent. Finally, campus officials are proposing to increase per-credit-hour rates for both resident and nonresident graduate students from \$618.<sup>50</sup> to \$631.<sup>00</sup>, an increase of \$12.<sup>50</sup> or 2.0 percent.

Murray State University Proposed Tuition and Fee Base Rates Academic Year 2026-27				Table 1	
<u>Rate Category</u>	<u>Current 2025-26 Base Rates</u>	<u>Proposed 2026-27 Base Rates</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	
Undergraduate					
Resident	\$10,320	\$10,530	\$210	2.0%	
Nonresident	20,676	21,096	420	2.0%	
Graduate					
Resident	\$618.50 pch	\$631.00 pch	\$12.50	2.0%	
Nonresident	618.50 pch	631.00 pch	12.50	2.0%	

Base rates for MuSU do not include an Asset Preservation Fee of \$10.00 per credit hour, capped at 15 hours or \$150.<sup>00</sup> per semester, or \$300.<sup>00</sup> per year, for full-time students (fall and spring only).

pch = per credit hour

Attachment A contains additional categories of tuition and fee charges, including proposed per-credit-hour rates for part-time resident and nonresident undergraduate students, for part-time graduate students, and for online students. Staff recommends approval of these additional rates as proposed by the university.

Every tuition-setting cycle, campus officials are asked to submit tuition and fee revenue estimates for both current and upcoming fiscal years. For 2026-27, MuSU included tuition and fee revenue estimates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 in their submission. As can be seen in Attachment B, campus officials estimate that their proposed 2026-27 tuition and fee charges for all categories of students (i.e., every academic level, residency designation, and full-time or part-time status) will generate a modest increase in tuition and fee revenue for the upcoming academic year. Specifically, between 2025-26 and 2026-27, gross tuition and fee revenue at

MUSU is expected to grow from \$117.7 million to \$120.0 million, respectively, representing an increase of about \$2.3 million or 1.95%.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Council staff reviewed the tuition and fee proposal submitted by Murray State University for academic year 2026-27 and determined that: (a) the proposed base rate increase for resident undergraduate students complies with the comprehensive university rate ceiling adopted by the Council at its April 17, 2025 meeting; (b) the planned base rate increase for nonresident undergraduate students adheres to provisions of a previously approved MOU between the Council and institution; and (c) proposed rates for graduate and on-line students comply with Council parameters.

**Proposed 2026-27 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Charges  
Murray State University**

Category	Students admitted Summer 2016 to Spring 2020				Students admitted Summer 2020 and after			
	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Annual 2026-27	Summer 2027	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Annual 2026-27	Summer 2027
<i>Undergraduate</i>								
Resident								
Full-time (up to 15 hours)	5,265.00	5,265.00	10,530.00		5,265.00	5,265.00	10,530.00	
Per Credit Hour	438.75	438.75		438.75	438.75	438.75		438.75
(Online Courses Resident) Per Credit Hour	438.75	438.75		438.75	438.75	438.75		438.75
Nonresident*								
Full-time (up to 15 hours)	14,250.00	14,250.00	28,500.00					
Per Credit Hour	1,187.50	1,187.50		1,187.50				
(Online Courses Resident) Per Credit Hour	438.75	438.75		438.75				
Regional/Nonresident*								
Full-time (up to 15 hours)	10,548.00	10,548.00	21,096.00		10,548.00	10,548.00	21,096.00	
Per Credit Hour	879.00	879.00		879.00	879.00	879.00		879.00
(Online Courses Resident) Per Credit Hour	438.75	438.75		438.75	438.75	438.75		438.75
Programs that are 100% Online Per Credit Hour	438.75	438.75		438.75	438.75	438.75		438.75

\*All nonresident students admitted Summer 2020 and after are charged the regional/nonresident rate.



**Proposed 2026-27 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Charges**  
**Murray State University**

	All Graduate Students			
	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Annual 2026-27	Summer 2027
<i>Graduate-All programs not defined below</i>				
PCH - Resident, Non-Resident, Regional, Online:	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Graduate-Education</i>				
Resident Per Credit Hour	434.50	434.50		434.50
Nonresident, Regional Per Credit Hour	631.00	631.00		631.00
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Graduate-below programs</i>				
Occupational Therapy				
Speech-Language Pathology				
Resident				
Per Credit Hour	696.25	696.25		696.25
Nonresident, Regional				
Per Credit Hour	696.25	696.25		696.25
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Graduate-below programs</i>				
Master of Business Administration				
Master of Science Cybersecurity Management				
Master of Science Mass communications with a Concentration in Public Relations				
Master of Science in Information Systems				
On campus and Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	618.25	618.25		618.25
<i>Graduate-below programs</i>				
Master of Public Administration				
On campus and Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	481.00	481.00		481.00
<i>Doctor of Education</i>				
Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	684.50	684.50		684.50
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Doctor of English</i>				
Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	684.50	684.50		684.50
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Doctor of Nursing Practice - Nursing</i>				
Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	684.50	684.50		684.50
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner</i>				
Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	684.50	684.50		684.50
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00
<i>Doctor of Nursing Practice - Nurse Anesthetist</i>				
Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	812.50	812.50		812.50
Online Per Credit Hour, regardless of residency	631.00	631.00		631.00

## Notes:

- (a) Students enrolled in full online programs will not have their courses capped and will be billed for each credit hour enrolled.
- (b) All undergraduate rates are capped at fixed-flat full-time for 12-15 credit hours. Hours above 15 assessed at the appropriate resident, regional or non-resident rate.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Estimated 2026-27 Gross Tuition and Mandatory Fee Revenue  
Murray State University**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Estimated 2025-26</u>	<u>2026-27</u>
<i>Undergraduate</i>		
Resident	\$ 46,903,527	\$ 47,836,751
Nonresident	52,180,598	\$ 53,218,819
Online	(a) 1,745,250	\$ 1,779,975
<i>Graduate</i>		
Resident	3,202,549	\$ 3,266,269
Nonresident	1,890,910	\$ 1,928,532
Online	8,246,383	\$ 8,410,458
<i>Doctoral</i>		
Resident	468,201	\$ 477,517
Nonresident	365,257	\$ 372,524
Online	2,675,707	\$ 2,728,945
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 117,678,382</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 120,019,790</u></b>

(a) Revenues from online courses, unless the programs are fully online, are not tracked by MuSU since online courses are available as part of the full-time 15 hour cap. Online courses that are not specific to fully online programs are included in the Resident and Nonresident amounts.

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Interim Capital Project - Kentucky State University Shauntee Hall Renovation Ph. II
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Adam Blevins, Director, Finance Policy and Programs Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED**

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve the interim capital project request from Kentucky State University (KSU) to expand the renovation of Shauntee Hall.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

At one time, Shauntee Hall housed the university’s College of Arts and Sciences, including laboratories, classrooms, and offices. More recently, it served as the location of KSU’s Student Health Center. The hall recently underwent minor renovation to update interior finishes and rehabilitate the HVAC and electrical systems.

The proposed expansion of the Shauntee Hall renovation project will include necessary upgrades to the building’s mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems, architectural improvements to the interior of the building, such as installation of durable, low-maintenance flooring, and modifications and repairs to the exterior. If authorized, Phase II renovations will be implemented concurrently with Phase I and continue through the design phase.

The Board of Regents, at its meeting on January 13, 2026, approved an expansion of the original project scope by \$3,000,000 to be funded with HBCU Title III, Part B funding for a total project scope of \$10,680,000.

**APPLICABLE POLICY, REGULATIONS, STATUTES**

HB592 (RS18) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as: (1) the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations; (2) do not jeopardize funding for existing programs; and (3) are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The relevant section of KRS 164A.575 is:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
- (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
  - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
  - (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

### **APPROVAL PROCESS**

During the interim, the agencies involved and the approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 are as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or board of regents;
- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and are subsequently presented by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at EKV, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, WKU and KCTCS are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, a project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this expansion in project scope was not previously approved by the Council, nor authorized by the General Assembly in the enacted 2024-2026 Budget of the Commonwealth (RS 24, HB 6), Council approval is required to authorize this project. KSU will use HBCU Title III, Part B funds to finance this Phase II renovation. The project will not use any General Fund or any monies appropriated for another purpose. Debt will not be used to finance any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

Following action by the Council, CPE staff will notify the president of KSU, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee regarding this interim capital project. Relevant documentation, including certification of board approval, is included in the attachments.



Capital Construction & Facilities Services  
Academic Services Building | 400 East Main St  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 597-5824 KYSU.EDU

March 16, 2026

Adam Blevins  
Director – Finance Policy and Programs  
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Dear Adam,

Kentucky State University respectfully requests Council approval for an additional **\$3,000,000** in funding for the **Shauntee Hall Renovation – Phase II** project. This additional funding was approved by the Kentucky State University Board of Regents at its meeting on **January 13, 2026**.

Shauntee Hall most recently housed the Student Health Center and previously served as a facility for the College of Arts and Sciences, including laboratories, classrooms, and offices. The building recently underwent a minor renovation to update interior finishes and rehabilitate the HVAC and electrical systems. As a result, the building is currently in good to fair condition and is well-positioned to be adapted as the future home of the **School of Engineering and Technology**.

The proposed renovation will include necessary upgrades to the building's **mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems**, as well as architectural improvements such as the installation of durable, low-maintenance flooring and modifications and repairs to the building envelope. The project will also take advantage of the limited expansion permitted under the **2024–2026 Asset Preservation Fund allocation guidelines**.

**Phase I** construction is planned to begin in **Spring 2026** and will focus on renovating existing space to create a **CNC Laboratory and associated support areas**, allowing the facility to be operational for the **Fall 2026 semester** to meet a curriculum need within the Engineering program.

**Phase II (Amended)** will begin concurrently with Phase I and continue through the design phase. Additional funding has been identified through **HBCU Title III, Part B**, which will allow the project scope to expand by approximately **10,000 square feet**.

### **Budgetary Implications**

The total estimated cost of the project is **\$10,680,000**, as approved by the KSU Board of Regents. This estimate is based on the preliminary project scope and an average per-square-foot cost for renovations of this type of academic facility.



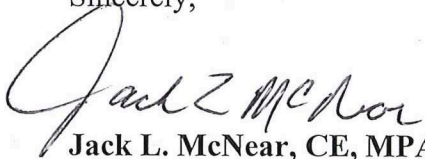
Capital Construction & Facilities Services  
Academic Services Building | 400 East Main St  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 597-5824 KYSU.EDU

Funding sources include:

- **\$7,680,000** from **2025–2026 State Bond–Funded Asset Preservation Funds**, which no longer require a matching contribution
- **\$3,000,000** from a **one-time supplemental appropriation through HBCU Title III, Part B**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



**Jack L. McNear, CE, MPA**  
Associate Vice President  
Capital Planning & Facilities Services  
Kentucky State University

**KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY**

| 400 East Main Street Frankfort, KY 40601 |  
(502) 597-5945 [Nicole.Sergent@KYSU.EDU](mailto:Nicole.Sergent@KYSU.EDU)

March 17, 2026

Adam Blevins, MPA

Director of Finance Policy and Programs

Re: Shauntee Hall Renovations Project

Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education:

On behalf of Kentucky State University (“University”) Board of Regents, I am writing to certify that the below action item was passed unanimously on February 13, 2026 at its Regular meeting.

---

**ACTION ITEM – (AMENDED):**

Approval of Shauntee Hall Renovations Project, Phases 1 & 2 *and an addition to Phase 2, of approximately 10,000 sf addition* – Design and Construction.

**FACTS:**

Shauntee Hall was constructed in 1971 and recently renovated in 2024-2025. Its 18,500 square feet most recently housed the College of Arts and Sciences Laboratory, classrooms and offices. It has undergone a recent minor renovation to upgrade finishes and rehabilitate the HVAC and Electrical Systems. This Building is in generally good to fair condition and with some additional significant renovations can be adapted to be the new home for the School of Engineering and Technology. This renovation will make necessary renovations to the mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems, architectural improvements of low maintenance flooring and building envelope modifications and repairs to create a for the School of Engineering and Technology.

This project will also take the opportunity for minor expansion allowed under the guidelines of the 2024-2026 Asset Preservation Funds allocations.

Phase 1 construction is planned to begin in Fall 2025 to renovate existing space for the creation of a CNC Laboratory and support spaces for use on January, 2025 to meet a curriculum need for the Engineering program.

Phase 2 (*Amended*) - This project will begin concurrently with Phase 1 and continue in Design. *Additional funding has been identified through HBCU Title 3, Part B and will allow for an addition of approximately 10,000 square feet to be added to the project in total.*

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

The project cost is estimated to cost \$9,680,000.00. This budget was based on the preliminary scope of work applied to an average square foot cost for this style of Academic Building renovation. The funding will come from University’s 2024-2026 State Bond Funded Asset Preservation Funds (\$6,680,000.00), which no longer require a match *and an additional \$3,000,000.00 from a one time supplemental appropriation award provided by HBCU Title 3, Part B. This will bring the Project Total to \$9,680,000.00.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Dr. Kofi Akakpo recommends the Board of Regents approve the increase in the Shauntee Hall Renovation project *as amended*.

**MOTION:**

Approve the increase in the use of the Asset Preservation funds for the Shauntee Hall Renovation project *as amended*.

Signed by:

*nicole.sergent*

03/17/2026 | 5:24:04 PM EDT

Kentucky State University Board of Regents  
Board Secretary





**ATTACHMENT D**



**ATTACHMENT E**



<b>TOPIC:</b>	Interim Capital Project - Jefferson Community and Technical College, Utility Infrastructure Project
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Adam Blevins, Director, Finance Policy and Programs Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED**

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve authorization of the interim capital project request by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) to improve and relocate the utility infrastructure at Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC), Downtown Campus.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

KCTCS officials, on behalf of JCTC, have requested authorization for an interim capital project to improve and relocate utility infrastructure on the JCTC Downtown Campus. The project will involve relocating, reconfiguring, and upgrading the campus utilities on the Downtown Campus due to the demolition of Hartford Hall, which formerly housed all utilities and served as a utility hub for multiple buildings.

The KCTCS Board of Regents approved the project at its meeting on March 12, 2026, which identifies agency restricted funds as the funding source at a total project scope of \$2,200,000.

Relevant documentation, including certification of board approval, is included in the attachments.

**APPLICABLE POLICY, REGULATIONS, STATUTES**

HB592 (RS18) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as: (1) the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations; (2) do not jeopardize funding for existing programs; and (3) are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The relevant section of KRS 164A.575 is:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
- (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
  - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
  - (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

### **APPROVAL PROCESS**

During the interim, the agencies involved and the approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 are as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or board of regents;
- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently presented by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at ECU, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, WKU and KCTCS are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, a project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not previously approved by the Council, nor authorized by the General Assembly in the enacted 2024-2026 Budget of the Commonwealth (RS 24, HB 6), Council approval is required to authorize this project. KCTCS will use institutional funds to finance this project. The project will not use any General Fund or any monies appropriated for another purpose. Debt will not be used to finance any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

Following action by the Council, CPE staff will notify the president of KCTCS, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee regarding this interim capital project.



March 2, 2026

Dr. Aaron Thompson, President  
Council on Postsecondary Education  
100 Airport Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: Action Item – Jefferson Community and Technical College  
Improve and Relocate Downtown Utility Infrastructure

Dear President Thompson:

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System respectfully request interim authorization for one project that is being funded with agency restricted funds.

The project is Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) Improve and Relocate Downtown Utility Infrastructure. This project will be relocating, reconfiguring and upgrading the campus utilities on the JCTC Downtown Campus due to the demolition of Hartford Hall, which houses all utilities and serves as a utility hub serving multiple buildings. The total budget is \$2,200,000.

The design and construction of this project will be implemented through the KCTCS Facilities Support Services Capital Construction Division. KCTCS' Board of Regents will be approving this project on March 12, 2026.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andy Casebier at 859-256-3287.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Kilburn".

Todd Kilburn  
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Dr. Ryan F. Quarles, KCTCS President  
Carla Wright  
Adam Blevins  
Andy Casebier  
Sandy Adkins



## Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents

**Agenda Item:** Jefferson Community and Technical College Improve and Relocate Downtown Utility Infrastructure capital project interim approval.

**Action Question:** Should the KCTCS Board of Regents approve the Jefferson Community and Technical College Improve and Relocate Downtown Utility Infrastructure capital project with a scope of \$2,200,000?

**Motion:** Motion made by Regent Stevens, seconded by Regent Hall to approve the Jefferson Community and Technical College Improve and Relocate Downtown Utility Infrastructure capital project with a scope of \$2,200,000.

The preceding motion was passed by the KCTCS Board of Regents unanimously on March 12, 2026.



Regent Brianna Whitten  
Board Secretary

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Interim Capital Project - University of Kentucky, Patterson Office Tower Renovation
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Adam Blevins, Director, Finance Policy and Programs Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED**

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve the interim project request from the University of Kentucky (UK) to undertake partial renovation of Patterson Office Tower.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

University of Kentucky officials are requesting authorization for an interim capital project to undertake a partial renovation of the aging Patterson Office Tower (4<sup>th</sup> floor). The project will include improvements, renovations, and upgrades of Education and General spaces, necessary building systems, and infrastructure that have exceeded their useful life or are unable to accommodate required capacity. On June 17, 2022, the university’s Board of Trustees approved the project to renovate and improve the fourth floor of the Patterson Office Tower at a total project scope of \$4,000,000.

**APPLICABLE POLICY, REGULATIONS, STATUTES**

HB592 (RS18) created a new provision in KRS 164A.575, which allows public postsecondary institutions to authorize capital projects not specifically listed in the state budget as long as: (1) the projects are funded with non-general fund appropriations; (2) do not jeopardize funding for existing programs; and (3) are reported by the institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee. The relevant section of KRS 164A.575 is provided below:

- (15) Notwithstanding KRS 45.760, the governing board may authorize a capital construction project or a major item of equipment even though it is not specifically listed in any branch budget bill, subject to the following conditions and procedures:
  - (a) The full cost shall be funded solely by non-general fund appropriations;
  - (b) Moneys specifically budgeted and appropriated by the General Assembly for another purpose shall not be allotted or re-allotted for expenditure on the project or major item of equipment. Moneys utilized shall not jeopardize any



- existing program and shall not require the use of any current general funds specifically dedicated to existing programs; and
- (c) The institution's president, or designee, shall submit the project or major item of equipment to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review as provided by KRS 45.800.

## **APPROVAL PROCESS**

During the interim, the agencies involved and the approval process for a capital project that exceeds \$1,000,000 is as follows:

- The project must be approved by an institution's board of trustees or board of regents;
- The project must be submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education for review and action;
- If approved by the Council, projects at KSU are submitted to the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet for review and action, and subsequently presented by the Secretary to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review;
- If approved by the Council, projects at EKU, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, UK, UofL, WKU and KCTCS are submitted by the requesting institution to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee for review, and a copy is provided to the Finance and Administration Cabinet as information; and
- Following review and action by the appropriate agencies, the project may be initiated by the requesting institution.

Because this project was not previously approved by the Council, nor authorized by the General Assembly in the enacted 2024-2026 Budget of the Commonwealth (RS 24, HB 6), Council approval is required to authorize this project. UK will use a combination of 2022-2024 Asset Preservation Pool and institutional funds to finance this project. Debt will not be used to finance any portion of this project; therefore, provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply.

Following action by the Council, CPE staff will notify the president of UK, the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee regarding this interim capital project. Relevant documentation, including certification of board approval, is included in the attachments.

# FCR 19

Office of the President  
June 17, 2022

Members, Board of Trustees:

## ASSET PRESERVATION POOL CAPITAL PROJECT (VARIOUS PROJECTS)

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the initiation of the Asset Preservation Pool capital project which includes but is not limited to the following: Multi-Disciplinary Sciences (MDS) Building 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Renovation, White Hall Classroom Building Renovation – Design Only, Pence Hall Renovation, Miller Hall Renovation, Patterson Office Tower Partial Renovation, Peterson Service Building Partial Renovation, and various Infrastructure and Building Systems Renovation Projects and declare its official intent to reimburse capital expenditures from a future debt obligation for the Capital Project.

Background: Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 8:2, any capital project with an estimated scope of \$1,000,000 or more must be approved by the Board prior to initiation.

The Asset Preservation Pool Capital Project is a multi-phase effort to preserve existing campus buildings and enabling infrastructure so that they continue to serve their intended functions well into the future.

This Asset Preservation initiative will make improvements to existing buildings on campus that will provide needed space for the College of Nursing and the College of Health Sciences on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the MDS Building, design renovations of the widely-used White Hall Classroom Building, renovations to Pence Hall and Miller Hall that are being vacated due to construction of a new College of Design, renovate two floors of the Patterson Office Tower, renovations to Peterson Services Building, as well as campus utility infrastructure and building systems projects.

This \$100,228,000 project, authorized by the 2022 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, is well within the total legislative authorization of \$200,456,000 and will be funded with state bonds and agency bonds.

The United States Department of Treasury regulations related to the use of proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or notes require that borrowers make a Declaration of Official Intent to reimburse itself for capital expenditures made prior to the issuance of the debt (also known as a “Reimbursement Resolution”) if the issuer intends to reimburse itself from tax-exempt debt proceeds. This recommendation includes such a Declaration of Official Intent.

Pursuant to the University of Kentucky Debt Policy, the Debt Management Committee has reviewed the financing plan and supports the proposed recommendation.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other\_\_\_\_\_

University of Kentucky  
Education and General Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Building Name	Project Scope	State Funds	Campus Match	Source of Match	Match Ratio	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated End Date	Status
UK - 2590.51	Improve Patterson Office Tower - 4th Floor	This project will improve, renovate and upgrade the 4th floor of the aging Patterson Office Tower. It will include E&G spaces and necessary building systems and infrastructure which have exceeded their useful life and/or which are unable to handle the necessary capacity/load.	Patterson Office Tower	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,076,904	\$ 923,096	Agency Bonds	30.00%	2/20/26	7/31/27	Planning

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Update to the 2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Brent Floyd, Senior Associate, Finance Policy and Programs Bill Payne, Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF TOPIC AND/OR ACTION REQUESTED**

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approve the proposed revision to the *2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines*, as shown in Attachment A.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Under the current *2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines*, institutions are required to submit matching funds requests that meet (or exceed) a minimum request amount threshold of \$50,000. CPE staff recommends that the Finance Committee approve and endorse to the full Council a revision to the guidelines that will allow an institution to submit a request that is below the required minimum threshold, if its total remaining program allocation is less than \$50,000.

The Endowment Match Program, also referred to as the Bucks for Brains program, matches public dollars with private donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis to encourage research at the University of Kentucky (UK) and University of Louisville (UofL) and to strengthen key programs at the comprehensive universities. All funds, both public and private, must be endowed, with investment proceeds used to provide a perpetual source of funding for research activities.

In the *2022-2024 Budget of the Commonwealth* (22 RS, HB 1), the Kentucky General Assembly authorized \$40.0 million in state bond funds for the Bucks for Brains program, with \$30.0 million of that amount appropriated to the Research Challenge Trust Fund (RCTF) to support endowed chairs and professorships, research scholars, staff, and infrastructure, and graduate fellowships at UK and UofL, and \$10.0 million allocated to the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (CUETF) to support endowed chairs and professorships, research staff and infrastructure, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships at the comprehensive universities.

The Council on Postsecondary Education has statutory authority to determine the criteria and process by which Kentucky public universities may apply to access appropriations to the RCTF (KRS 164.7917) and CUETF (KRS 164.7919). The Council has exercised that authority by adopting guidelines that accompany each new iteration of program funding provided by the General Assembly. Included in the 2022-24 guidelines is a requirement that each request for

matching state funds meet or exceed a \$50,000 minimum request threshold for an institution to submit a request to the Council and potentially receive a disbursement (if eligible) from their Endowment Match Program allocation.

The problem with this approach is that gifts from donors don't always come in round increments and the amounts given may not match an institution's remaining available allocation. As currently written, once an institution's residual allocation falls below \$50,000, that institution is technically prohibited under the current program guidelines from submitting a request for any remaining funds. To provide institutions with increased flexibility and facilitate access to residual allocations that fall below the \$50,000 threshold, CPE staff recommends adding language to the 2022-24 guidelines that will allow institutions to submit requests for less than \$50,000 once their respective residual allocations fall below the threshold.

The proposed revision to the *2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines* is shown in Attachment A.

## **Council on Postsecondary Education 2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines**

### **Introduction**

Kentucky recognizes the importance of research to the economic well-being of its citizens. The Endowment Match Program encourages private investment in public higher education research activities to stimulate business development, generate increases in externally sponsored research, create better jobs and a higher standard of living, and facilitate Kentucky's transition to a knowledge-based economy. The program matches public money with private gifts to fund chairs, professorships, research scholars, staffs and infrastructure, fellowships and scholarships, and mission support at the public universities. This collaborative approach is critical to advancing Kentucky's research presence into national prominence.

### **Program Funding**

State funding for the Endowment Match Program is appropriated to the Research Challenge Trust Fund (RCTF) for the research universities and to the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (CUETF) for the comprehensive institutions. Both trust funds were created with passage of the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 (HB 1).

Prior to 2022, there were four rounds of funding for the Endowment Match Program. In fiscal year 1998-99, the program received surplus General Fund appropriations of \$110 million (i.e., \$100 million for the research universities and \$10 million for comprehensive institutions). In 2000-01, the General Assembly authorized \$120 million for the program (i.e., \$100 million for the RCTF and \$20 million for the CUETF). The legislature debt financed another \$120 million for the program in 2003-04 (i.e., \$100 million for the RCTF and \$20 million for the CUETF). Finally, the General Assembly authorized \$60 million in state supported bond funds for the program in 2008-09, with \$50 million appropriated to the research universities and \$10 million appropriated to the comprehensive universities.

For the upcoming 2022-2024 biennium, the General Assembly authorized \$40 million in bond funds for the Bucks for Brains program, with \$30 million appropriated to the Research Challenge Trust Fund and \$10 million appropriated to the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (22 RS, HB 1).

### **Program Administration**

The Council on Postsecondary Education oversees and administers the Endowment Match Program. The Council establishes areas of concentration within which program funds are used, develops guidelines for the distribution of program funds, and reviews reports from the institutions on uses of program funds and results achieved.

The boards of trustees and boards of regents of the Commonwealth's public universities are responsible for the Endowment Match Program on their respective campuses. The governing boards are required by Council guidelines to review and approve all donations, gifts, and pledges that will be matched with state funds and used to establish new endowments or expand existing endowments under the Bucks for Brains program. Furthermore, the boards are charged with ensuring that the purposes of each endowment and sources of matching funds comply with Council guidelines and serve the public good.

Documentation of board approval must be submitted with each endowment request. In addition, the governing boards are required to review and approve Endowment Match Program reports that are submitted annually to the Council.

### Allocation of Program Funds

In the 2022-2024 Budget of the Commonwealth (22 RS, HB 1), the General Assembly authorized \$30 million in General Fund supported bond funds in fiscal year 2022-23 for the Research Challenge Trust Fund (RCTF) to support efforts to grow endowments for initiatives in fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health (i.e., STEM+H fields) at Kentucky public research universities. In accordance with KRS 164.7917, funding appropriated to the RCTF will be allocated two-thirds (2/3) to the University of Kentucky and one-third (1/3) to the University of Louisville, as shown in the table below. These funds will remain in the trust fund until matched and distributed.

University of Kentucky	\$20,000,000
University of Louisville	<u>10,000,000</u>
Total RCTF	\$30,000,000

In that same budget, the General Assembly also authorized \$10 million in state-supported bond funds in 2022-23 for the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (CUETF) to support endowment growth in STEM+H fields at Kentucky comprehensive universities. In keeping with KRS 164.7919, these funds will be apportioned among the comprehensive universities based on each institution's share of sector total General Fund appropriations, excluding debt service and specialized, noninstructional appropriations (i.e., mandated programs). The resulting allocations are shown below. These funds will remain in the trust fund until matched and distributed.

Eastern Kentucky University	\$2,227,800
Kentucky State University	667,800
Morehead State University	1,279,000
Murray State University	1,484,900
Northern Kentucky University	1,864,600
Western Kentucky University	<u>2,475,900</u>
Total CUETF	\$10,000,000

### Matching Requirements

The Endowment Match Program was conceived as a way to bring new money from external sources into the Commonwealth's system of postsecondary education. In order to receive state funds, the universities must provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds that satisfy the following requirements:

- Gifts and pledges must be newly generated to be eligible for state match. Newly generated contributions are those received by the university after November 15, 2021 (i.e., the date of the Council's 2022-2024 biennial budget submission).
- Gifts and pledges must be from external sources to be eligible for state match. External source contributions are those that originate outside the university and its affiliated corporations. Eligible sources of funding include, but are not limited to, businesses, non-governmental foundations, hospitals, corporations, and alumni or other individuals. Funds received from federal, state, and local government sources are not eligible for state



match. Federal funds awarded to Kentucky State University under Title III of the Higher Education Act (HEA) are an exception to this rule and are eligible for state match. Federal guidelines under the Strengthening HBCUs Program allow up to 20% of Title III grant awards to be endowed provided they are matched dollar-for-dollar.

- General Fund appropriations and student-derived revenues (e.g., tuition and fees revenue) are not eligible for state match.
- The minimum institutional request amount is \$50,000. A university may combine smaller donations from businesses, nongovernmental foundations, hospitals, corporations, and alumni or other individuals to meet the \$50,000 minimum. An institution may make a request below the minimum threshold if its total remaining program allocation is less than \$50,000.
- All funds, both state and private, must be endowed. “Endowed” means that state and donated funds will be held in perpetuity and invested to create income for the institution, with endowment proceeds eligible for expenditure, in accordance with donor restrictions, university endowment spending policies, and Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) requirements.
- Requests for state funds must identify the matching funds that are cash and the matching funds that are pledges.
- Pledges, or promises of future payment, are eligible for state match provided they are based on a written contract or agreement and include a payment schedule, which does not exceed five years from the initial pledge date. Pledge payment schedules showing receipts to date and scheduled future payments are to be included in the audited financial statements of either the institution or the foundation.
- If pledged funds are not received within five years of the initial pledge date, the university must replace the portion of private funds not received with another eligible cash gift or the unmatched portion of the state funds plus an allowance for accrued interest will revert to the trust fund for reallocation. In such cases, a time frame for the replacement or return of state funds will be negotiated between Council staff and institutional representatives.
- University officials must notify the Council staff of unpaid pledges six months before the end of the five-year deadline, or immediately when a gift has been revoked.

### Uses of Program Funds

Proceeds from the endowments can be used to support various activities including endowed chairs and professorships, research scholars, research staff, graduate fellowships, undergraduate scholarships, research infrastructure, and mission support as described below.

#### *Category 1 Uses of Program Funds*

**Chairs:** New faculty positions, salary supplements to existing faculty positions, and associated expenses for those positions, including start-up costs, salaries, benefits, travel, and other professional expenses as permitted by university policy.

**Professorships:** New faculty positions, salary supplements to existing faculty positions, and associated expenses for those positions, including start-up costs, salaries, benefits, travel, and other professional expenses as permitted by university policy.

**Research Scholars:** Salaries, benefits, and other personnel related expenses associated with non-tenured, medical school faculty who exhibit the potential to assume a chair or professorship position once tenure has been awarded. Research scholars should have clearly defined research agendas that relate specifically to the fields of study envisioned for the ultimate occupants of the chairs or professorships. Funding for this purpose is time limited. Each research scholar may be supported with endowment proceeds for a maximum of six years. At the end of that time, if the research scholar has not been appointed to the identified chair or professorship, university officials should fill the position with an appropriately qualified, tenured faculty member.

**Research Staff:** Salaries, benefits, and other personnel related expenses associated with full-time or part-time staff assistants who directly support the research activities of an endowed chair or professor.

**Research Infrastructure:** Start-up and operating expenses that directly support the research activities of an endowed chair or professor, including equipment, materials and supplies, and other research related expenses as permitted by university policy.

### *Category 2 Uses of Program Funds*

**Graduate Fellowships:** Fellowship stipends for outstanding graduate or professional students, which may include travel and other expenses as permitted by university policy. Eligibility for fellowships will be determined by academic deans and/or campus financial aid officials consistent with donor intent as specified in endowment agreements.

**Undergraduate Scholarships:** At the comprehensive universities only, program funds can be used to support scholarships for outstanding undergraduate students, which may include travel and other expenses as permitted by university policy. Eligibility for scholarships will be determined by academic deans and/or campus financial aid officials consistent with donor intent as specified in endowment agreements.

**Mission Support:** Program funds can be used to support research and graduate missions at all institutions, and programs of distinction or applied research programs approved by the Council at the comprehensive institutions. Consideration will be given to mission support activities such as: (1) expenditures that enhance the research capability of university libraries (i.e., books, journals, research materials, media, and equipment); (2) start-up costs, equipment, and supplies that support faculty, graduate student, or undergraduate student research activities; (3) funding for visiting scholars, lecture series, and faculty exchange; and (4) expenditures for the dissemination of research findings (i.e., nationally prominent publications and presentations at conferences, symposiums, seminars, or workshops). However, priority will be given to mission support expenditures that encourage the research related activities of faculty and students.

### **Use of Funds Requirements**

- At the research universities, at least 70 percent of program funds must be endowed for the purpose of supporting chairs, professorships, or research scholars, or research staff and infrastructure that directly support the research activities of an endowed chair, professor, or research scholar (i.e., Category 1 Uses). No more than 30 percent of program funds may be endowed for the purpose of supporting mission support activities or graduate fellowships (i.e., Category 2 Uses).

- At the comprehensive institutions, at least 50 percent of program funds must be endowed for the purpose of supporting chairs or professorships, or research staff and infrastructure that directly support the research activities of an endowed chair or professor (i.e., Category 1 Uses). No more than 50 percent of program funds may be endowed for the purpose of supporting mission support, graduate fellowships, or undergraduate scholarships (i.e., Category 2 Uses).

### Areas of Concentration

- At both research and comprehensive universities, 100 percent of program funds must be endowed to support initiatives in STEM+H fields (22 RS, HB 1). These areas are of strategic benefit to Kentucky and are core components of a knowledge-based economy. A copy of the Council's official STEM+H Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code list is available upon request.
- At the research universities, the Council expects state and external matching funds to be substantially directed toward supporting research that leads to the creation, preservation, or attraction of businesses that will increase the number of good jobs in Kentucky. For these purposes, "good jobs" are defined as jobs that yield income at or above the national per capita income.
- The Council recognizes that strong research programs are clustered around related academic disciplines and encourages campus officials to create a critical mass of scholars who can influence the nation's research and academic agendas.
- The Council recognizes that the boundaries of traditional disciplines are increasingly permeable and encourages the use of endowment funds for interdisciplinary, problem solving, or applied research activities.
- The Council recognizes the importance of cooperation between universities and corporations and encourages partnerships in the technologies, engineering, and applied sciences.
- Program funds cannot be used for positions that are primarily administrative. However, chairs, professors, or scholars with active research agendas who may have an appointment such as department chair, center director, or dean are eligible.

### Reporting

Institutions will provide a report to the Council by November 1 every odd numbered year (i.e., coinciding with the Council's biennial budget submission), documenting how state and campus matching funds were used. These reports will include such items as the number of endowed chairs, professorships, and research scholars created or expanded using program funds, the gender and race of program faculty, research staff, and financial aid recipients, and the impact of the program in terms of job creation, increases in sponsored research attributable to the program, and generation and profitable use of intellectual property.

The institutions will also continue to provide FD-21 reports as part of their annual Comprehensive Database submissions to the Council. CPE staff will work with campus officials to identify any additional information that should be included in reports provided to the Council.

<b>TOPIC/TITLE:</b>	2026-2028 Biennial Budget Update
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President, Finance Policy and Programs Leslie Brown, Assistant Vice President, Operations
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF TOPIC**

The Finance Committee received an update on development of the 2026-2028 state budget through each stage of the process, including the Council’s biennial budget recommendation, the Governor’s Executive Budget, and House and Senate versions of the budget. The update focused on portions of the state budget that are relevant to Kentucky public postsecondary institutions (i.e., operating and capital budgets) and the Council on Postsecondary Education (i.e., agency budget).

**BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The postsecondary education budget development process is an iterative undertaking that takes about eleven months to complete, involves multiple stakeholders and policy leaders, and allows multiple opportunities for deliberation, negotiation, and compromise along the way. It typically begins in summer of every odd-numbered year with Council staff engaging in conversations with campus presidents and chief budget officers to identify the most pressing resource needs of the postsecondary education community.

It continues with the Council exercising its statutory authority to approve a biennial budget recommendation for postsecondary education, which typically occurs in November every other year (although that approval took place in September for the 2026-2028 biennium). That recommendation was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly this past October and was followed in sequence by the Executive Budget in January, the House Budget in March, and the Senate Budget also in March.

The next step in the process involves members of the Free Conference Committee agreeing on budget components and funding amounts to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget. That is followed by a period during which

the Governor has an opportunity to make line-item vetoes, which can then be overridden (or not) by the General Assembly. Typically, the state has an enacted budget by April 15 in every even-numbered year.

## **COUNCIL'S 2026-2028 RECOMMENDATION**

On September 12, 2025, the Council on Postsecondary Education fulfilled one of its primary statutory responsibilities, when it approved a biennial budget recommendation for postsecondary education. That recommendation, which encompasses fiscal years 2026-27 and 2027-28, included three main categories of requests: (1) postsecondary institution operating funds; (2) capital investment; and (3) CPE agency budget. Major components and funding amounts included in each category are provided below.

### **Postsecondary Institution Operating Funds**

CPE staff engaged in discussions with multiple stakeholders to identify funding components to include in the Council's *2026-2028 Postsecondary Education Budget Recommendation* that would address the most pressing resource needs of Kentucky's public postsecondary system and provide the highest return on state investment. Using a collaborative process involving CPE staff and campus leaders, a consensus was reached that the highest priorities for institutional operating funds in the upcoming biennium were additional appropriations for an inflation adjustment and performance funding.

A summary of the main components and funding amounts included in the Council's 2026-2028 Postsecondary Institutions Operating Funds request is provided below.

- The Council's recommendation included a request for \$43.3 million in 2026-2027 and \$86.6 million in 2027-28 for an inflation adjustment to help institutions offset significant increases in higher education costs
- The Council included a request for \$30 million in 2026-27 and \$45 million in 2027-2028 for Performance Funding to provide ongoing incentives for institutions to increase student success and course completion outcomes and continue making progress toward the state's 60x30 college attainment goal.
- If authorized, this represents an increase from \$115 million in 2025-26 to \$145 million in 2026-27 and \$160 million in 2027-28
- At a special called meeting of the Council on March 16, 2026, an additional request for \$50 million was approved for the Osteopathic Medicine program at Eastern Kentucky University. This request is for a one-time appropriation to meet accreditation requirements for an escrow to be established and to provide start-up

funding for the program. Once the program receives accreditation, \$42 million will be returned to the state

### Capital Investment

The Council's Capital Investment recommendation typically includes requests for three funding components: new construction, asset preservation, and information technology and equipment. In recent biennia, due to sizable, accumulated needs for renovation and renewal of campus facilities, the Council has elected to prioritize asset preservation in its capital requests.

While the Council continued to emphasize asset preservation funding in its 2026-2028 recommendation, it also approved a significant request for new facilities, particularly those needed to address STEM-H and other programs requiring more modern facilities.

The main components of the Council's 2026-28 postsecondary institution capital investment request are listed below.

- A request for bond funds totaling \$750 million over the biennium (\$350 million each year) for asset preservation projects
- A request for \$1.76 billion in state bond funds for new construction across all campuses and KCTCS

### CPE Agency Budget

CPE staff engaged in discussions with agency staff and stakeholders to identify funding components to include in the Council's 2026–2028 Agency Budget Request that would allow for a continuation of base services and an expansion of services in critical need areas.

A summary of the main components and funding amounts included in the Council's 2026–2028 Agency Budget Request is provided below.

- The Council's recommendation included a request for \$17.9 million in General Fund dollars in both years of the biennium to fund CPE operations (\$8 million), Technology Trust initiatives (\$3.7 million), Healthcare Workforce Investment (\$3 million), Spinal Cord and Head Injury (\$2 million), Ovarian Cancer Research (\$1 million), and Southern Regional Education Board dues (\$224,800)
- A request for spending authority of \$8.2 million in restricted fund dollars in both years of the biennium to disperse cancer match funds and to support privately grant-funded and licensure programs

- A request for spending authority of \$6 million in federal fund dollars in both years of the biennium to support the GEAR UP Kentucky federal program
- A request for \$6.2 million in both years of the biennium to support cancer research at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville
- The Council included an additional budget request of \$2 million to expand Futuriti.org, workforce, and summer bridge initiatives

## **EXECUTIVE BUDGET (HB 304)**

Governor Andy Beshear presented his budget proposal for the 2026-2028 biennium on January 7, 2026. Highlights of the Executive Budget for the state’s public postsecondary institutions include:

### Postsecondary Institution Operating Funds

- Postsecondary institutions were exempted from a 3% base budget reduction implemented by the Governor on most other Executive Branch agencies
- The 2025-26 performance funding distribution is added to the base General Fund budgets for the institutions for 2026-27 and 2027-28
- Base budgets for the institutions were adjusted for Fire and Tornado Fund premium assessments, which resulted in base increases at some institutions and base decreases at others
- General Fund was replaced with Fire Commission restricted funds for the KCTCS State Fire and Rescue Training mandated program

### Capital Investment

- The Executive Budget included state bond authorization for \$768 million for new construction and asset preservation pools
- There was no required institution match for those institutions receiving an asset preservation allocation
- In this biennium, the Executive Budget deviated from past practice and appropriated all debt service to the Finance and Administration Cabinet, rather than to each institution
- Two one-time appropriations from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund are included in the Governor’s recommended budget.
  - A nonrecurring appropriation of \$42 million for an Eastern Kentucky University Osteopathic Medicine Escrow
  - A nonrecurring appropriation of \$4 million for the University of Kentucky Holocaust Education initiative

### CPE Agency Budget

- A 3% General Fund reduction in both years of the biennium (i.e., \$439,300 each year)
- A reduction of \$232,900 to recover the decreased cost in KPPA retirement benefits in fiscal year 2026
- An increase of \$108,800 in 2026-27 and \$155,200 in 2027-28 for costs associated with health insurance
- An increase of \$102,000 in 2026-27 and \$209,600 in 2027-28 for costs associated with a 2% salary increment
- A Fund Swap that uses \$3,477,300 of interest earnings from the endowment match and licensure programs to support agency operations, accompanied by a associated reduction in General Fund of \$3,477,300
- No funding for additional budget requests

### **HOUSE BUDGET (HB500 HCS1)**

The House Budget (HB 500) was introduced on January 27, 2026, and was amended by the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee on February 25, 2026. The amended version (HB 500 HCS1) was passed by the full House on February 26, 2026. The information below was obtained from the version of the bill passed by the full House.

### Postsecondary Institution Operating Funds

- The House Budget reduced funding for the institutions from the 2025-26 base levels by 4% in 2026-27 and 7% in 2027-28. This resulted in a reduction of \$42.0 million in 2026-27 and \$73.5 million in 2027-28
- The House also applied the 4% and 7% reductions to almost all mandated programs
- This reduction was calculated using a 2024-25 total General Fund expenditure base, including recurring net General Fund and nonrecurring performance fund distributions from that year, which resulted in larger base reductions each year of the upcoming biennium for institutions that received larger distributions under the funding model in 2024-25
- The House Budget reduced the pension subsidy for participating institutions by \$1.65 million in each fiscal year
- The House Budget increased funding for the Gatton Academy at Western Kentucky University and the Craft Academy at Morehead state University by \$108,900 in 2026-27 and \$219,000 in 2027-28 each



- The House Budget also includes the Executive action where General Fund was replaced with Fire Commission restricted funds for the KCTCS State Fire and Rescue Training mandated program

### Capital Investment

- The House Budget authorized \$190 million in bond funds over the biennium for asset preservation
- In 2026-27, these funds were allocated equally to each institution (\$10 million per institution, \$90 million total)
- In 2027-28, \$100 million was allocated based on each institution's share of Education and General (E&G) square footage

### CPE Agency Budget

- A 3% General Fund reduction in fiscal year 2026-27 and an additional 4% General Fund reduction in fiscal year 2027-28
- Reduction in the Commonwealth's Health Insurance Contribution
- No funding for additional budget requests

## **SENATE BUDGET (HB500 SCS1)**

The Senate Budget (HB500 SCS1) passed the full Senate on March 19, 2026. The information provided below was obtained from that bill.

### Postsecondary Institutions Operating Funds

- The Senate Budget maintains base funding for the institutions at 2025-26 levels with no across-the-board reductions
- It maintains base funding for mandated programs at 2025-26 levels
- It does include adjustments to institution base budgets based on changes in Fire and Tornado Insurance premium assessments
- The Senate Budget also reduces the pension subsidy for participating institutions by \$1.65 million in each fiscal year
- It increases the Performance Fund by \$5 million in 2026-27 and \$15 million in 2027-28, resulting in total appropriations in the fund of \$120 million in 2026-27 and \$130 million in 2027-28
- The Senate Budget includes additional funding for the following items:
  - Air Traffic Control Training Program at ECU - \$6.5 million in 2026-27 and \$1.5 million in 2027-28
  - Gatton Academy and Craft Academy - \$517,100 each in 2026-27 and \$1.0 million each in 2027-28

- Vortruba Young Scholars Academy at NKU - \$1.8 million in 2026-27 and \$3.6 million in 2027-28
- KCTCS-TRAINS - \$1.85 million in each year

### Capital Investment

- The Senate Budget includes \$190 million in bond funds for asset preservation, using the same allocation methods as the House Budget
- The Senate Budget also adds \$410 million in bond funds for new construction projects at UK, UofL, EKU, Morehead, and KCTCS

### CPE Agency Budget

- A 3% General Fund reduction in fiscal year 2026-27 and an additional 4% reduction in fiscal year 2027-28; a \$372,200 reduction in 2026-27 and a \$651,400 reduction in 2027-28 (\$2.1 million was excluded from the budget reduction)
- A reduction of \$232,900 to recover the decreased cost in KPPA retirement benefits in fiscal year 2026
- An increase of \$108,800 in 2026-27 and \$155,200 in 2027-28 for costs associated with health insurance
- An increase of \$102,000 in 2026-27 and \$209,600 in 2027-28 for costs associated with a 2% salary increment
- A Fund Swap that uses \$3,477,300 of interest earnings from the endowment match and licensure programs to support agency operations, accompanied by a associated reduction in General Fund of \$3,477,300
- No funding for additional budget requests

## **BUDGET COMPARISONS**

Attached for review are three tables that facilitate comparisons across the various versions of the postsecondary education budgets.

- Attachment A presents Postsecondary Institution Operating Funds components and funding amounts included in the Council's budget recommendation, Governor's Budget, and House and Senate versions of the budget.
- Attachment B shows Capital Investment components across all iterations of the postsecondary education budgets.
- Attachment C contains information pertaining to mandated programs at each institution.

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 2026-28 Biennial Budget  
 Comparison of CPE Recommended and Executive, House, and Senate Budgets

ATTACHMENT A  
 March 30, 2026

Postsecondary Institution Operating Funds

Funding Component	CPE Recommended		Executive Budget		House Budget (HB 500/HCS 1)		Senate Budget (HB 500/SCS 1)	
	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028
2025-26 Net General Fund	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000	1,076,705,000
Additional Budget Requests								
• Inflation Adjustment	43,276,700	86,553,600	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Fire and Tornado Adjustment	0	0	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)
• Pension Subsidy	0	0	0	0	(1,656,900)	(1,656,900)	(1,656,900)	(1,656,900)
• Performance Funding	30,000,000	45,000,000	0	0			5,000,000	15,000,000
<sup>1</sup> • Osteopathic Medicine Program - EKU	50,000,000	0	42,000,000	0				
• Budget Reduction	0	0	0	0	(42,000,400)	(73,500,900)	0	0
• Other Adjustments	50,000,000	0	(1,869,900)	(1,869,900)	(1,652,100)	(1,430,100)	9,314,500	7,148,500
Total Operating Funds	1,249,981,700	1,208,258,600	1,114,135,700	1,072,135,700	1,028,696,200	997,417,700	1,086,663,200	1,094,497,200
Dollar Change	173,276,700	131,553,600	37,430,700	(4,569,300)	(48,008,800)	(79,287,300)	9,958,200	17,792,200
Percent Change	16.1%	12.2%	3.5%	-0.4%	-4.5%	-7.4%	0.9%	1.7%

<sup>1</sup> Approved by the Council in a special meeting on March 16, 2026. The Executive Budget provided this as one-time funding from the Budget Reserve.

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 2026-28 Biennial Budget  
 Comparison of CPE Recommended and Executive, House, and Senate Budgets

ATTACHMENT A  
 March 30, 2026

Postsecondary Institutions

Funding Component	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028	Fiscal 2026-2027	Fiscal 2027-2028
• Inflation Adjustment								
University of Kentucky	13,402,300	26,804,600	0	0	0	0	0	0
University of Louisville	6,175,400	13,350,900	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Kentucky University	3,453,800	6,907,700	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kentucky State University	1,374,600	2,749,200	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morehead State University	2,107,400	4,214,800	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murray State University	2,265,000	4,529,900	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Kentucky University	2,530,800	5,061,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Kentucky University	3,671,500	7,343,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
KCTCS	8,295,900	16,591,900	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	43,276,700	87,553,600	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Fire and Tornado Adjustment								
University of Kentucky	0	0	806,300	806,300	806,300	806,300	806,300	806,300
University of Louisville	0	0	974,500	974,500	974,500	974,500	974,500	974,500
Eastern Kentucky University	0	0	(702,300)	(702,300)	(702,300)	(702,300)	(702,300)	(702,300)
Kentucky State University	0	0	(348,400)	(348,400)	(348,400)	(348,400)	(348,400)	(348,400)
Morehead State University	0	0	(500,600)	(500,600)	(500,600)	(500,600)	(500,600)	(500,600)
Murray State University	0	0	(618,200)	(618,200)	(618,200)	(618,200)	(618,200)	(618,200)
Northern Kentucky University	0	0	(524,100)	(524,100)	(524,100)	(524,100)	(524,100)	(524,100)
Western Kentucky University	0	0	(313,900)	(313,900)	(313,900)	(313,900)	(313,900)	(313,900)
KCTCS	0	0	(1,472,700)	(1,472,700)	(1,472,700)	(1,472,700)	(1,472,700)	(1,472,700)
Subtotal	0	0	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)	(2,699,400)
• Pension Subsidy								
Eastern Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	(890,900)	(890,900)	(890,900)	(890,900)
Morehead State University	0	0	0	0	(491,300)	(491,300)	(491,300)	(491,300)
Murray State University	0	0	0	0	(164,500)	(164,500)	(164,500)	(164,500)
Western Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	(110,200)	(110,200)	(110,200)	(110,200)

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 2026-28 Biennial Budget  
 Comparison of CPE Recommended and Executive, House, and Senate Budgets

ATTACHMENT A  
 March 30, 2026

Subtotal	0	0	0	0	(1,656,900)	(1,656,900)	(1,656,900)	(1,656,900)
• Budget Reduction								
University of Kentucky	0	0	0	0	(13,302,500)	(23,279,400)	0	0
University of Louisville	0	0	0	0	(6,311,300)	(11,044,800)	0	0
Eastern Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	(3,047,000)	(5,332,200)	0	0
Kentucky State University	0	0	0	0	(1,221,800)	(2,138,200)	0	0
Morehead State University	0	0	0	0	(1,546,100)	(2,705,800)	0	0
Murray State University	0	0	0	0	(2,131,600)	(3,730,400)	0	0
Northern Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	(2,778,500)	(4,862,400)	0	0
Western Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	(3,291,400)	(5,759,900)	0	0
KCTCS	0	0	0	0	(8,370,200)	(14,647,800)	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	(42,000,400)	(73,500,900)	0	0
• Osteopathic Medicine Program								
Eastern Kentucky University	50,000,000	0	42,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	50,000,000	0	42,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
• Other Adjustments to Mandated Programs (HCS1 across the board reductions to mandated programs displayed in Budget Reductions Section)								
University of Kentucky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University of Louisville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,500,000	1,500,000
Kentucky State University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morehead State University	0	0	0	0	108,900	219,900	517,100	1,034,100
Murray State University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,800,000	3,600,000
Western Kentucky University	0	0	0	0	108,900	219,900	517,100	1,034,100
KCTCS	0	0	0	0	(1,869,900)	(1,869,900)	(19,700)	(19,700)
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	(1,652,100)	(1,430,100)	9,314,500	7,148,500

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 2026-2028 Biennial Budget  
 Comparison of CPE Recommended and Executive, House, and Senate Budgets

ATTACHMENT B  
 March 30, 2026

Capital Investment

Funding Component	CPE Recommended		Executive Budget		House Budget (HB 500/HCS 1)		Senate Budget (HB 500/SCS 1)	
	Fiscal 2026-27	Fiscal 2027-28	Fiscal 2026-27	Fiscal 2027-28	Fiscal 2026-27	Fiscal 2027-28	Fiscal 2026-27	Fiscal 2027-28
New Construction	1,761,400,000	0	603,065,000	0	0	0	410,000,000	0
Asset Preservation	350,000,000	350,000,000	165,000,000	0	90,000,000	100,001,000	90,000,000	100,001,000
<b>New Construction/Expansion</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>
UK	450,000,000	0	200,000,000	0	0	0	200,000,000	0
UofL	142,000,000	0	142,000,000	0	0	0	142,000,000	0
EKU	330,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0
KSU	50,000,000	0	22,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
MoSU	79,400,000	0	30,665,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0
MuSU	48,500,000	0	48,500,000	0	0	0	0	0
NKU	150,000,000	0	75,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
WKU	280,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KCTCS	231,500,000	0	74,900,000	0	0	0	48,000,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,761,400,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>603,065,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>410,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Asset Preservation</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>
UK	84,274,400	84,274,400	0	0	10,000,000	24,330,000	10,000,000	24,330,000
UofL	41,512,500	41,512,500	0	0	10,000,000	12,077,000	10,000,000	12,077,000
EKU	27,754,200	27,754,200	65,000,000	0	10,000,000	8,189,000	10,000,000	8,189,000
KSU	7,943,500	7,943,500	0	0	10,000,000	2,360,000	10,000,000	2,360,000
MoSU	17,388,100	17,388,100	0	0	10,000,000	5,065,000	10,000,000	5,065,000
MuSU	24,284,900	24,284,900	0	0	10,000,000	7,073,000	10,000,000	7,073,000
NKU	23,855,100	23,855,100	0	0	10,000,000	6,951,000	10,000,000	6,951,000
WKU	30,999,500	30,999,500	100,000,000	0	10,000,000	9,158,000	10,000,000	9,158,000
KCTCS	91,987,800	91,987,800	0	0	10,000,000	24,798,000	10,000,000	24,798,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,000,000</b>	<b>350,000,000</b>	<b>165,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90,000,000</b>	<b>100,001,000</b>	<b>90,000,000</b>	<b>100,001,000</b>

Council on Postsecondary Education  
 Executive Budget Mandated Program Appropriations (HB304)  
 2026-28 Biennial Budget

ATTACHMENT C-1  
 March 30, 2026

Institution/Mandated Program	2025-26 Actual	2026-27 HB 304	Change From Base Year	2027-28 HB 304	Change From Base Year
<b>University of Kentucky</b>					
College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service	\$35,420,800	\$35,420,800	\$0	\$35,420,800	\$0
Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station	31,434,100	31,434,100	0	31,434,100	0
Center for Applied Energy Research	10,176,200	10,176,200	0	10,176,200	0
Kentucky Geological Survey	4,076,300	4,076,300	0	4,076,300	0
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	4,034,200	4,034,200	0	4,034,200	0
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging	2,040,500	2,040,500	0	2,040,500	0
College of Agriculture Division of Regulatory Services	1,800,000	1,800,000	0	1,800,000	0
College of Agriculture Kentucky Small Business Development Center	600,000	600,000	0	600,000	0
University Press of Kentucky	586,300	586,300	0	586,300	0
Human Development Institute Supported Higher Education Project	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0
Center of Excellence in Rural Health	450,200	450,200	0	450,200	0
Kentucky Cancer Registry	950,200	950,200	0	950,200	0
Sports Medicine Research Institute	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>9,944,600</b>	<b>10,750,900</b>	<b>806,300</b>	<b>10,750,900</b>	<b>806,300</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$102,113,400</b>	<b>\$102,919,700</b>	<b>\$806,300</b>	<b>\$102,919,700</b>	<b>\$806,300</b>
<b>University of Louisville</b>					
Rural Health Education Program	\$695,200	\$695,200	\$0	\$695,200	\$0
Kentucky Autism Training Center	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0
School of Dentistry Patient Dental Care	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0
Mid-South REACH Grant	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>4,826,600</b>	<b>5,801,100</b>	<b>974,500</b>	<b>5,801,100</b>	<b>974,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,921,800</b>	<b>\$6,896,300</b>	<b>\$974,500</b>	<b>\$6,896,300</b>	<b>\$974,500</b>
<b>Eastern Kentucky University</b>					
Model Laboratory School	\$4,571,900	\$4,571,900	\$0	\$4,571,900	\$0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	5,345,800	5,345,800	0	5,345,800	0
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>3,125,500</b>	<b>2,423,200</b>	<b>(702,300)</b>	<b>2,423,200</b>	<b>(702,300)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,043,200</b>	<b>\$12,340,900</b>	<b>(\$702,300)</b>	<b>\$12,340,900</b>	<b>(\$702,300)</b>
<b>Kentucky State University</b>					
Land-Grant Match	\$10,381,000	\$10,381,000	\$0	\$10,381,000	\$0
Litigation Support	895,000	0	(895,000)	0	(895,000)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>822,000</b>	<b>473,600</b>	<b>(348,400)</b>	<b>473,600</b>	<b>(348,400)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,098,000</b>	<b>\$10,854,600</b>	<b>(\$1,243,400)</b>	<b>\$10,854,600</b>	<b>(\$1,243,400)</b>
<b>Morehead State University</b>					
Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics	\$5,442,700	\$5,442,700	\$0	\$5,442,700	\$0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	2,947,800	2,947,800	0	2,947,800	0
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>1,775,000</b>	<b>1,274,400</b>	<b>(500,600)</b>	<b>1,274,400</b>	<b>(500,600)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,165,500</b>	<b>\$9,664,900</b>	<b>(\$500,600)</b>	<b>\$9,664,900</b>	<b>(\$500,600)</b>
<b>Murray State University</b>					
Breathitt Veterinary Center	\$4,034,200	\$4,034,200	\$0	\$4,034,200	\$0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	1,800,000	1,800,000	0	1,800,000	0
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>2,069,600</b>	<b>1,451,400</b>	<b>(618,200)</b>	<b>1,451,400</b>	<b>(618,200)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,903,800</b>	<b>\$7,285,600</b>	<b>(\$618,200)</b>	<b>\$7,285,600</b>	<b>(\$618,200)</b>
<b>Northern Kentucky University</b>					
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1,323,900	\$1,323,900	\$0	\$1,323,900	\$0
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>1,902,000</b>	<b>1,377,900</b>	<b>(524,100)</b>	<b>1,377,900</b>	<b>(524,100)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,225,900</b>	<b>\$2,701,800</b>	<b>(\$524,100)</b>	<b>\$2,701,800</b>	<b>(\$524,100)</b>

Western Kentucky University

Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science	\$5,442,700	\$5,442,700	\$0	\$5,442,700	\$0
Kentucky Mesonet	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	1,750,000	0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	1,522,200	1,522,200	0	1,522,200	0
LifeWorks at WKU	2,200,000	0	(2,200,000)	0	(2,200,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	2,180,800	1,866,900	(313,900)	1,866,900	(313,900)

Total \$13,095,700 \$10,581,800 (\$2,513,900) \$10,581,800 (\$2,513,900)

→ University Total \$167,567,300 \$163,245,600 (\$4,321,700) \$163,245,600 (\$4,321,700)

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

KCTCS-TRAINS	\$4,149,800	\$4,149,800	\$0	\$4,149,800	\$0
Kentucky Fire Commission	1,869,900	0	(1,869,900)	0	(1,869,900)
Adult Agriculture Education	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0
Forensic Audit	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	0	(1,000,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	4,637,500	3,164,800	(1,472,700)	3,164,800	(1,472,700)

→ KCTCS Total \$12,657,200 \$8,314,600 (\$4,342,600) \$8,314,600 (\$4,342,600)

→ Grand Total \$180,224,500 \$171,560,200 (\$8,664,300) \$171,560,200 (\$8,664,300)

Appropriations to support Fire and Tornado Trust Fund Insurance Premiums are highlighted in yellow.

Mandated programs highlighted in blue indicate one-time allocations.



Council on Postsecondary Education  
House Budget Mandated Program Appropriations (HB500 HCS1)  
2026-28 Biennial Budget

ATTACHMENT C-2  
March 30, 2026

Institution/Mandated Program	2025-26 Actual	2026-27 HB 500 (HCS1)	Change From Base Year	2027-28 HB 500 (HCS1)	Change From Base Year
<b>University of Kentucky</b>					
College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service	\$35,420,800	\$34,004,000	(\$1,416,800)	\$32,941,300	(\$2,479,500)
Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station	31,434,100	30,176,700	(1,257,400)	29,233,700	(2,200,400)
Center for Applied Energy Research	10,176,200	9,769,200	(407,000)	9,769,200	(407,000)
Kentucky Geological Survey	4,076,300	3,913,200	(163,100)	3,791,000	(285,300)
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	4,034,200	3,872,800	(161,400)	3,751,800	(282,400)
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging	2,040,500	1,958,900	(81,600)	1,897,700	(142,800)
College of Agriculture Division of Regulatory Services	1,800,000	1,728,000	(72,000)	1,674,000	(126,000)
College of Agriculture Kentucky Small Business Development Center	600,000	576,000	(24,000)	558,000	(42,000)
University Press of Kentucky	586,300	562,800	(23,500)	545,300	(41,000)
Human Development Institute Supported Higher Education Project	500,000	480,000	(20,000)	465,000	(35,000)
Center of Excellence in Rural Health	450,200	432,200	(18,000)	418,700	(31,500)
Kentucky Cancer Registry	950,200	912,200	(38,000)	883,700	(66,500)
Sports Medicine Research Institute	100,000	96,000	(4,000)	93,000	(7,000)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>9,944,600</b>	<b>10,750,900</b>	<b>806,300</b>	<b>10,750,900</b>	<b>806,300</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$102,113,400</b>	<b>\$99,232,900</b>	<b>(\$2,880,500)</b>	<b>\$96,773,300</b>	<b>(\$5,340,100)</b>
<b>University of Louisville</b>					
Rural Health Education Program	\$695,200	\$667,400	(\$27,800)	\$646,500	(\$48,700)
Kentucky Autism Training Center	150,000	144,000	(6,000)	139,500	(10,500)
School of Dentistry Patient Dental Care	100,000	96,000	(4,000)	93,000	(7,000)
Mid-South REACH Grant	150,000	144,000	(6,000)	139,500	(10,500)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>4,826,600</b>	<b>5,801,100</b>	<b>974,500</b>	<b>5,801,100</b>	<b>974,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,921,800</b>	<b>\$6,852,500</b>	<b>\$930,700</b>	<b>\$6,819,600</b>	<b>\$897,800</b>
<b>Eastern Kentucky University</b>					
Model Laboratory School	\$4,571,900	\$4,389,000	(\$182,900)	\$4,251,900	(\$320,000)
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	5,345,800	4,454,900	(890,900)	4,454,900	(890,900)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>3,125,500</b>	<b>2,423,200</b>	<b>(702,300)</b>	<b>2,423,200</b>	<b>(702,300)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,043,200</b>	<b>\$11,267,100</b>	<b>(\$1,776,100)</b>	<b>\$11,130,000</b>	<b>(\$1,913,200)</b>
<b>Kentucky State University</b>					
Land-Grant Match	\$10,381,000	\$10,381,000	\$0	\$10,381,000	\$0
Litigation Support	895,000	0	(895,000)	0	(895,000)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>822,000</b>	<b>473,600</b>	<b>(348,400)</b>	<b>473,600</b>	<b>(348,400)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,098,000</b>	<b>\$10,854,600</b>	<b>(\$1,243,400)</b>	<b>\$10,854,600</b>	<b>(\$1,243,400)</b>
<b>Morehead State University</b>					
Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics	\$5,442,700	\$5,551,600	\$108,900	\$5,662,600	\$219,900
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	2,947,800	2,456,500	(491,300)	2,456,500	(491,300)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>1,775,000</b>	<b>1,274,400</b>	<b>(500,600)</b>	<b>1,274,400</b>	<b>(500,600)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,165,500</b>	<b>\$9,282,500</b>	<b>(\$883,000)</b>	<b>\$9,393,500</b>	<b>(\$772,000)</b>
<b>Murray State University</b>					
Breathitt Veterinary Center	\$4,034,200	\$3,872,800	(\$161,400)	\$3,751,800	(\$282,400)
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	1,800,000	1,635,500	(164,500)	1,635,500	(164,500)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>2,069,600</b>	<b>1,451,400</b>	<b>(618,200)</b>	<b>1,451,400</b>	<b>(618,200)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,903,800</b>	<b>\$6,959,700</b>	<b>(\$944,100)</b>	<b>\$6,838,700</b>	<b>(\$1,065,100)</b>
<b>Northern Kentucky University</b>					
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1,323,900	\$1,270,900	(\$53,000)	\$1,231,200	(\$92,700)
<b>Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium</b>	<b>1,902,000</b>	<b>1,377,900</b>	<b>(524,100)</b>	<b>1,377,900</b>	<b>(524,100)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,225,900</b>	<b>\$2,648,800</b>	<b>(\$577,100)</b>	<b>\$2,609,100</b>	<b>(\$616,800)</b>

Western Kentucky University

Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science	\$5,442,700	\$5,551,600	\$108,900	\$5,662,600	\$219,900
Kentucky Mesonet	1,750,000	1,680,000	(70,000)	1,627,500	(122,500)
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	1,522,200	1,412,000	(110,200)	1,412,000	(110,200)
LifeWorks at WKU	2,200,000	0	(2,200,000)	0	(2,200,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	2,180,800	1,866,900	(313,900)	1,866,900	(313,900)

Total \$13,095,700 \$10,510,500 (\$2,585,200) \$10,569,000 (\$2,526,700)

→ University Total \$167,567,300 \$157,608,600 (\$9,958,700) \$154,987,800 (\$12,579,500)

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

KCTCS-TRAINS	\$4,149,800	\$3,983,800	(\$166,000)	\$3,859,300	(\$290,500)
Kentucky Fire Commission	1,869,900	0	(1,869,900)	0	(1,869,900)
Adult Agriculture Education	1,000,000	960,000	(40,000)	930,000	(70,000)
Forensic Audit	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	0	(1,000,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	4,637,500	3,164,800	(1,472,700)	3,164,800	(1,472,700)

→ KCTCS Total \$12,657,200 \$8,108,600 (\$4,548,600) \$7,954,100 (\$4,703,100)

→ Grand Total \$180,224,500 \$165,717,200 (\$14,507,300) \$162,941,900 (\$17,282,600)

Appropriations to support Fire and Tornado Trust Fund Insurance Premiums are highlighted in yellow.

Mandated programs highlighted in blue indicate one-time allocations.

Council on Postsecondary Education  
Senate Budget Mandated Program Appropriations (HB500 SCS1)  
2026-28 Biennial Budget

ATTACHMENT C-3  
March 30, 2026

Institution/Mandated Program	2025-26 Actual	2026-27 HB 500 (SCS1)	Change From Base Year	2027-28 HB 500 (SCS1)	Change From Base Year
<b>University of Kentucky</b>					
College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service	\$35,420,800	\$35,420,800	\$0	\$35,420,800	\$0
Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station	31,434,100	31,434,100	0	31,434,100	0
Center for Applied Energy Research	10,176,200	10,176,200	0	10,176,200	0
Kentucky Geological Survey	4,076,300	4,076,300	0	4,076,300	0
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory	4,034,200	4,034,200	0	4,034,200	0
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging	2,040,500	2,040,500	0	2,040,500	0
College of Agriculture Division of Regulatory Services	1,800,000	1,800,000	0	1,800,000	0
College of Agriculture Kentucky Small Business Development Center	600,000	600,000	0	600,000	0
University Press of Kentucky	586,300	586,300	0	586,300	0
Human Development Institute Supported Higher Education Project	500,000	500,000	0	500,000	0
Center of Excellence in Rural Health	450,200	450,200	0	450,200	0
Kentucky Cancer Registry	950,200	950,200	0	950,200	0
Sports Medicine Research Institute	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	9,944,600	10,750,900	806,300	10,750,900	806,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$102,113,400</b>	<b>\$102,919,700</b>	<b>\$806,300</b>	<b>\$102,919,700</b>	<b>\$806,300</b>
<b>University of Louisville</b>					
Rural Health Education Program	\$695,200	\$695,200	\$0	\$695,200	\$0
Kentucky Autism Training Center	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0
School of Dentistry Patient Dental Care	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0
Mid-South REACH Grant	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	4,826,600	5,801,100	974,500	5,801,100	974,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,921,800</b>	<b>\$6,896,300</b>	<b>\$974,500</b>	<b>\$6,896,300</b>	<b>\$974,500</b>
<b>Eastern Kentucky University</b>					
Air Traffic Control Training Program	\$0	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Model Laboratory School	\$4,571,900	\$4,571,900	\$0	\$4,571,900	\$0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	5,345,800	4,454,900	(890,900)	4,454,900	(890,900)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	3,125,500	2,423,200	(702,300)	2,423,200	(702,300)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,043,200</b>	<b>\$17,950,000</b>	<b>\$4,906,800</b>	<b>\$12,950,000</b>	<b>(\$93,200)</b>
<b>Kentucky State University</b>					
Land-Grant Match	\$10,381,000	\$10,381,000	\$0	\$10,381,000	\$0
Litigation Support	895,000	0	(895,000)	0	(895,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	822,000	473,600	(348,400)	473,600	(348,400)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,098,000</b>	<b>\$10,854,600</b>	<b>(\$1,243,400)</b>	<b>\$10,854,600</b>	<b>(\$1,243,400)</b>
<b>Morehead State University</b>					
Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics	\$5,442,700	\$5,959,800	\$517,100	\$6,476,800	\$1,034,100
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	2,947,800	2,456,500	(491,300)	2,456,500	(491,300)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	1,775,000	1,274,400	(500,600)	1,274,400	(500,600)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,165,500</b>	<b>\$9,690,700</b>	<b>(\$474,800)</b>	<b>\$10,207,700</b>	<b>\$42,200</b>
<b>Murray State University</b>					
Breathitt Veterinary Center	\$4,034,200	\$4,034,200	\$0	\$4,034,200	\$0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	1,800,000	1,635,500	(164,500)	1,635,500	(164,500)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	2,069,600	1,451,400	(618,200)	1,451,400	(618,200)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,903,800</b>	<b>\$7,121,100</b>	<b>(\$782,700)</b>	<b>\$7,121,100</b>	<b>(\$782,700)</b>
<b>Northern Kentucky University</b>					
Vortruba Young Scholars Academy (NEW)	\$0	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	1,323,900	1,323,900	0	1,323,900	0
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	1,902,000	1,377,900	(524,100)	1,377,900	(524,100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,225,900</b>	<b>\$4,501,800</b>	<b>\$1,275,900</b>	<b>\$6,301,800</b>	<b>\$3,075,900</b>

Western Kentucky University

Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science	\$5,442,700	\$5,959,800	\$517,100	\$6,476,800	\$1,034,100
Kentucky Mesonet	1,750,000	1,750,000	0	1,750,000	0
Pension Subsidy (HB 8 Reductions)	1,522,200	1,412,000	(110,200)	1,412,000	(110,200)
LifeWorks at WKU	2,200,000	0	(2,200,000)	0	(2,200,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	2,180,800	1,866,900	(313,900)	1,866,900	(313,900)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,095,700</b>	<b>\$10,988,700</b>	<b>(\$2,107,000)</b>	<b>\$11,505,700</b>	<b>(\$1,590,000)</b>
→ University Total	\$167,567,300	\$170,922,900	\$3,355,600	\$168,756,900	\$1,189,600
Kentucky Community and Technical College System					
KCTCS-TRAINS	\$4,149,800	\$6,000,000	\$1,850,200	\$6,000,000	\$1,850,200
Kentucky Fire Commission	1,869,900	0	(1,869,900)	0	(1,869,900)
Adult Agriculture Education	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0
Forensic Audit	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	0	(1,000,000)
Fire and Tornado Insurance Premium	4,637,500	3,164,800	(1,472,700)	3,164,800	(1,472,700)
→ KCTCS Total	\$12,657,200	\$10,164,800	(\$2,492,400)	\$10,164,800	(\$2,492,400)
→ Grand Total	\$180,224,500	\$181,087,700	\$863,200	\$178,921,700	(\$1,302,800)

Appropriations to support Fire and Tornado Trust Fund Insurance Premiums are highlighted in yellow.

Mandated programs highlighted in blue indicate one-time allocations.

<b>TOPIC/TITLE:</b>	13 KAR 2:140. Research consortiums
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Travis Powell, Executive Vice President & General Counsel Cassie Trueblood, Deputy General Counsel
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information

**SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED**

The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Council regarding the approval of regulation 13 KAR 2:140, Research consortiums.

This new administrative regulation establishes the process by which requests for joint funding proposals will be advertised, what proposals shall include, how proposals will be evaluated, and how funds will be awarded from the endowed research fund created by KRS 164.038.

**APPLICABLE STATUTE(S), REGULATION(S), CPE POLICIES**

- KRS 164.038 – Kentucky public university research consortiums
- KRS 273.600 to 273.645 – Kentucky Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

13 KAR 2:140 is necessary to comply with the requirements of KRS 164.038 which creates the endowed research fund to be administered by the Council. KRS 164.038 tasks the Council with soliciting, accepting, and reviewing joint funding applications submitted by two or more Kentucky public universities to receive funding from a consortium account. The consortium accounts shall constitute seed money for the research consortium to perform initial research and seek grant money from public and private sources. KRS 164.038(6) requires the Council to promulgate administrative regulations to include metrics to evaluate joint funding applications and carry out the requirements of the statute.

1 COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

2 (New Administrative Regulation)

3 13 KAR 2:140. Research consortiums.

4 RELATES TO: KRS 164.038, KRS 273.600

5 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 164.038

6 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 164.038 requires the Council on  
7 Postsecondary Education to promulgate administrative regulations to administer the provisions of  
8 the statute. KRS 164.038(6) requires the Council to include in administrative regulation the metrics  
9 to evaluate joint funding applications submitted by two (2) or more Kentucky public universities  
10 to receive funding from a consortium account. This administrative regulation establishes the  
11 process by which requests for joint funding proposals will be advertised, what proposals shall  
12 include, how proposals will be evaluated, and how funding awards will be made.

13 Section 1. Definitions. (1) “Council” is defined by KRS 164.001(8).

14 (2) “Eligible postsecondary institution” means any public university in Kentucky.

15 (3) “Endowed research fund” means the endowed research fund as established by KRS  
16 273.600.

17 (4) “Research consortium” means two (2) or more eligible postsecondary institutions to receive  
18 joint funding from a consortium account through the endowed research fund administered by the  
19 Council.

20 Section 2. Notice of Funding Opportunities. (1) Once funds are available for distribution  
21 through the endowed research fund, the Council shall publish notice of availability of funding

1 opportunities for research consortia and issue a request for joint funding applications.

2 (2) The notice and request for joint funding applications shall include:

3 (a) The funding period;

4 (b) The date by which to submit a joint funding application;

5 (d) The application evaluation metrics and relative weighting of each metric;

6 (e) How to submit a joint funding application; and

7 (f) The targeted date for making awards.

8 Section 3. Metrics to Evaluate Joint Funding Applications. (1) The Council shall evaluate joint  
9 funding applications using the following metrics describing the research consortium's:

10 (a) Planned area of research and its impact on human quality of life advancements;

11 (b) Ability to innovate in the areas of medicine, health, or economic development;

12 (c) Ability to obtain other sources of funding to perform initial research;

13 (d) Potential to seek grant money from other sources in larger amounts;

14 (e) Potential future funding sources and amounts; and

15 (f) Implementation plan, including:

16 1. The total proposed budget for the use of funds received through the endowed research  
17 fund for the initial five (5) year term;

18 2. The total proposed budget for use of funds from other sources dedicated to the work of  
19 the research consortium for the initial five (5) year term; and

20 3. Operations of the consortium, including a description of how the research consortium  
21 partners would collaborate to conduct the planned research.

22 Section 4. Funding Proposals. (1) To be eligible for funding, a joint funding application  
23 proposal shall include:

1 (a) The participation in the research consortium certified by the signature of the respective  
2 chief executive officers and a designated point of contact and contact information for each  
3 participating eligible postsecondary institution;

4 (b) A narrative addressing each metric set forth in Section 3 of this administrative regulation.

5 (c) A response to any other funding proposal criteria as determined by the Council;

6 (d) A statement of assurances that statutory requirements shall be satisfied as set forth in KRS  
7 164.038; and

8 Section 5. Evaluation Process. (1) The Council shall review and rank each completed and  
9 timely submitted funding application on the extent to which the application meets the metrics set  
10 forth in Section 3 of this administrative regulation.

11 (2) Once the funding applications are evaluated and ranked, the Council shall select up to five  
12 (5) high-quality research consortiums to receive funding from a consortium account.

13 (3) Once award distributions are finalized and approved by the Council, the Council shall  
14 notify the designated points of contact of the award.

15 Section 6. Awards. (1) Upon award, the Council and research consortium partners shall enter  
16 into an agreement outlining the responsibilities of the parties, including but not limited to the  
17 estimated funding amount, the permissible uses of funds, and the reporting requirements.

18 (2) Once the agreement is finalized, the Council shall disburse money from the research  
19 consortium's designated consortium account in accordance with KRS 164.038(1)(e) for a term of  
20 five (5) years.

21 (3) The term of eligibility of the research consortium may be renewed for up to five (5)  
22 additional years in accordance with KRS 164.038(4).



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Madison Silvert, Chair  
Council on Postsecondary Education

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Powell, General Counsel  
Council on Postsecondary Education

## PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on June 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. EST, at the Council on Postsecondary Education, 100 Airport Road, Second Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601 in Conference Room A. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing was received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through June 30, 2026. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Cassie Trueblood, Deputy General Counsel, 100 Airport Road, Second Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601, 502.892.3696, 502.573.1535, and [cassie.trueblood@ky.gov](mailto:cassie.trueblood@ky.gov).

## REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

13 KAR 2:140

Contact Person: Cassie Trueblood

Phone: 502.892.3696

Email: cassie.trueblood@ky.gov

Subject Headings: Council on Postsecondary Education, Education, Education: Higher and Postsecondary.

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does: This regulation establishes the process by which requests for joint funding proposals will be advertised, what proposals shall include, how proposals will be evaluated and how funding awards will be made for the endowed research fund established in KRS 164.038.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation: KRS 164.038 requires the Council on Postsecondary Education to promulgate administrative regulations to administer the endowed research fund. KRS 164.038 requires the Council to set forth the requirements for joint funding applications submitted by two (2) or more Kentucky public universities to receive funding from a consortium account.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes: This administrative regulation conforms explicitly to the requirements of KRS 164.038.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes: The administrative regulation creates a process for issuing notice of funding opportunities, sets requirements for funding proposals, creates an evaluation process, and creates a process for making awards as required by KRS 164.038.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of: This is a new administrative regulation and not an amendment to an existing regulation.

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation: N/A

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation: N/A

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes: N/A

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes: N/A

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years? Yes, this administrative regulation implements Senate Bill 1 from the 2024 legislative session.

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation: This administrative regulation affects the public postsecondary universities in the state, totaling eight entities, but none are required to participate.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment: To be considered for funding, two (2) or more eligible postsecondary institutions must submit a joint funding application. Upon evaluation of the proposal and subsequent award, the Council and the participating institutions will enter into a contract in accordance with the terms set forth in this regulation.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4): There are no fees established by this administrative regulation. There will be some administrative costs to the public universities to create and submit a proposal.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4): Once the partnership contract is finalized, the Council shall disburse money from the fund to a consortium account as seed money to perform initial research and to prepare proposals to seek grant money from public and private sources in larger funding amounts.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially: There will be some administrative costs to the Council to solicit and review applications and make awards, but KRS 164.038(7) provides that the council may expend up to four percent (4%) of all interest earning of the endowed research fund on the costs of managing and administering the fund.

(b) On a continuing basis: There will be some administrative costs to the Council to solicit and review applications and make awards, but KRS 164.038(7) provides that the council may expend up to four percent (4%) of all interest earning of the endowed research fund on the costs of managing and administering the fund.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment: Awards will be made from the endowed research fund which is created by KRS 164.038 and endowed in accordance with KRS 273.600 to 273.645. The fund shall contain money received from the general fund, federal funds, and any other proceeds from contributions, gifts or grants made available for the purposes of the fund. KRS 164.038(7) provides that the Council may expend up to four percent (4%) of all interest earnings on the costs of managing and administering the endowed research fund.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment: This administrative regulation does not assess fees.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees: This administrative regulation does not establish any fees.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied? Tiering is not applicable because similarly situated entities are treated similarly under this administrative regulation.

## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

13 KAR 2:140

Contact Person: Cassie Trueblood

Phone: 502.892.3696

Email: cassie.trueblood@ky.gov

(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation: KRS 164.038, KRS 273.600

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act: This regulation is expressly authorized by KRS 164.038.

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions: The Council on Postsecondary Education and any public university in Kentucky that chooses to submit a proposal.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: There will be some administrative costs to universities to develop and submit the application. There will be some administrative costs to the Council to solicit and review applications and make awards.

For subsequent years: Any expenditures in subsequent years are expected to be covered by the endowed research fund.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: Universities selected will receive funding from a consortium account within the endowed research fund.

For subsequent years: The term of eligibility to receive funding from a consortium account is five (5) years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This regulation does not create any cost savings.

For subsequent years: This regulation does not create any cost savings.

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts): *None*.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: Not applicable.

For subsequent years: Not applicable.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: Not applicable.

For subsequent years: Not applicable.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: Not applicable.

For subsequent years: Not applicable.

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a): *None*.

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: Not applicable.

For subsequent years: Not applicable.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: Not applicable.

For subsequent years: Not applicable.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: Not applicable.

For subsequent years: Not applicable.

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation: Duties related to this administrative regulation are generally assumed by the Council staff members as part of their many other responsibilities. KRS 164.038(7) provides that the council may expend up to four percent (4%) of all interest earning of the endowed research fund on the costs of managing and administering the fund. University participation is voluntary. Universities who are successful in their joint funding application will receive funding from a consortium account as seed money for initial research and to seek grant money.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion: General analysis of the requirements of the statute and the workload of staff.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a “major economic impact”, as defined by KRS 13A.010(14): This administrative regulation is not anticipated to have a major economic impact, as implementation and compliance costs are minimum. Costs to the Council of managing and administering the endowed research fund can be covered by interest earnings of the fund in accordance with KRS 164.038(7). Participation by the universities is voluntary and funding will be used to bring about innovation that advances medicine, health, or economic development which will provide a positive impact on the Commonwealth.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion: General analysis.

<b>TOPIC/TITLE:</b>	2026 Strategic Agenda Progress Report
<b>STAFF CONTACTS:</b>	Travis Muncie, Assistant Vice President Anushka Karki, Intern for Data and Advanced Analytics Patricia Juarbe Rivera, Intern for Data and Advanced Analytics Katie Black, Intern for Data and Advanced Analytics
<b>TYPE/REQUEST:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information

### **SUMMARY OF TOPIC AND/OR ACTION REQUESTED**

CPE staff will discuss the 2026 Strategic Agenda Progress Report, which is a statutorily required publication on statewide and institutional progress on key performance indicators.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The 2026 Strategic Agenda Progress Report highlights Kentucky's progress in higher education, showing gains in undergraduate enrollment, degrees, retention, and graduation rates. FAFSA completion continues to rise, improving access to financial aid, while dual credit participation expands students' early momentum into college.

### **NOTABLE TAKEAWAYS**

The trends demonstrated represent meaningful advances in access, success, and credential attainment, while also identifying areas for continued focus. The report provides actionable insights to guide the Council and institutions in sustaining progress, closing opportunity gaps, and ensuring Kentucky's higher education system remains equitable, affordable, and aligned with workforce and economic needs. Some highlighted metrics included:

- **Enrollment Fall 24 to Fall 25:**
  - Overall enrollment +3.3%
  - Undergraduate enrollment +4.6%
  - Adult Undergraduate Enrollment: +6.8%
  - Dual Credit Enrollment: +6.2% overall
  - First-Time Undergraduate Enrollment: +3.7%
- **Dual Credit Attainment:** Class of 2024 at 47.5%, up from 46.2% for Class of 2023
- **Retention Rates:** KCTCS up to 62.2%; Four-year publics up to 80.8%
- **Graduation Rates:** KCTCS up to 51.1%; Four-year publics steady at 61.2%
- **Credential Production AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025:** Total degrees and credentials +5.0%



# 2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA

## INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE

University of Louisville



Affordability



Transitions



Success



Equity



Talent

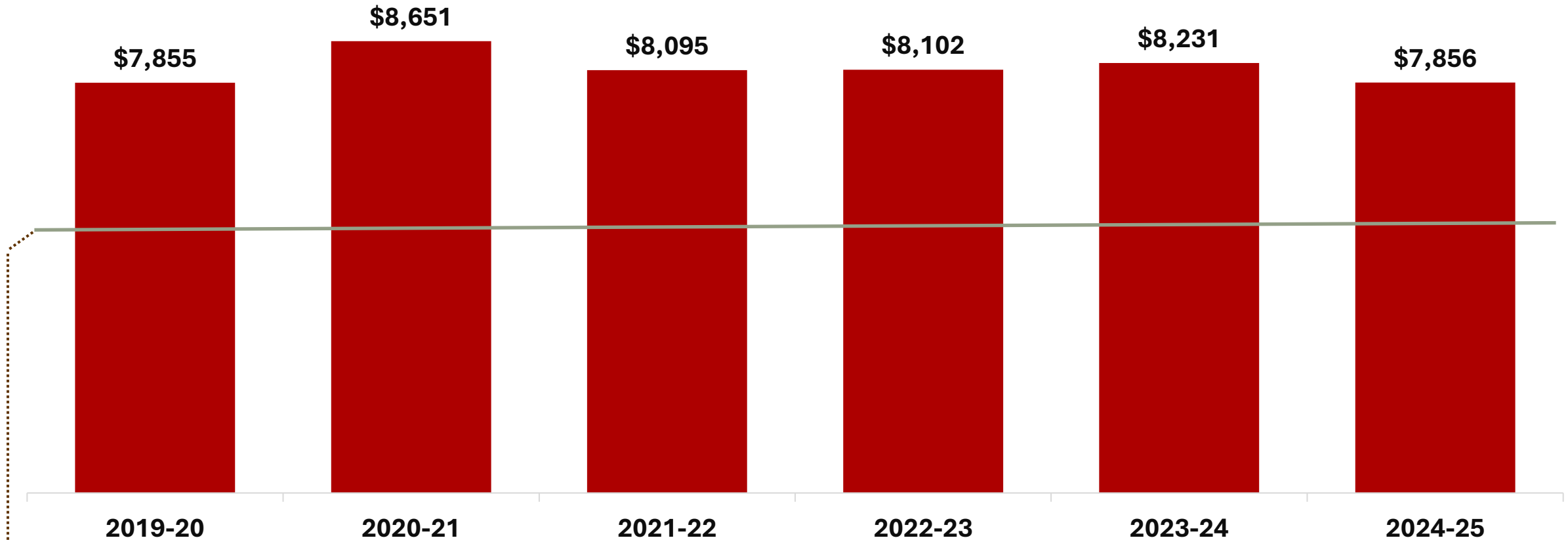


Value



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- AFFORDABILITY

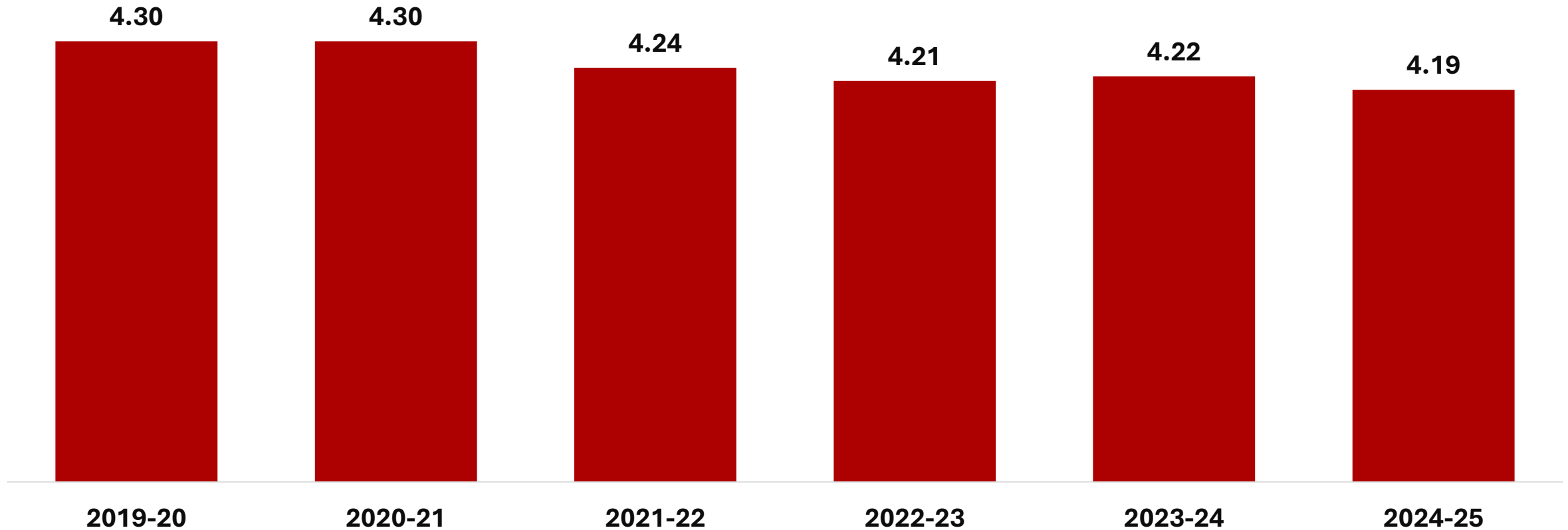
**First-Time Student Unmet Financial Need:** Average annual amount students pay out of pocket after financial aid and student aid index (SAI) are subtracted.



**\*State Target:** Average unmet financial need among first-time students of \$5,000. Note: The calculation used expected family contribution (EFC) in AY 23-24 and prior before switching to the new FAFSA Student Aid Index in 24-25.

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- AFFORDABILITY

**Time to Degree:** Average number of academic years students are enrolled prior to undergraduate degree completion.



*\*No state targets.*

# UL'S KEY STRATEGIES ON AFFORDABILITY



**Lowest Median Debt in Kentucky:** According to the **U.S. Dept. of Education College Scorecard**, UofL graduates carry a median debt of **\$20,500**—tied for the lowest among all Kentucky public four-year institutions.

**Carnegie "Opportunity University" Designation:** In 2025, UofL was one of only 13 universities nationwide to earn the triple Carnegie distinction of **Research 1 (R1), Community Engaged, and Opportunity College & University (OCU)**. Only OCU school in the ACC -- recognizes our success in providing high access and strong post-graduation earnings for students.

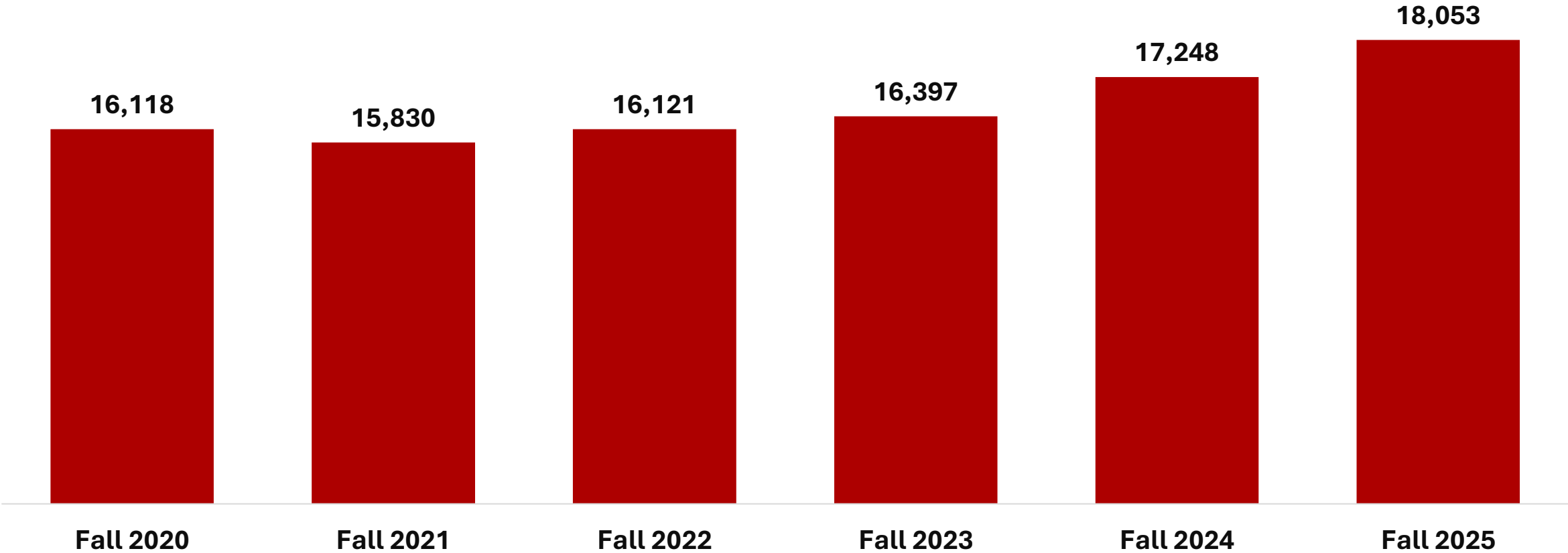
**Cardinal Commitment Grant** -- Provides financial aid to **Kentucky residents** to address **unmet financial need**—the greatest barrier to student success and persistence.

**"15 to Finish"** initiative to improve time to degree and lessen student debt

**Maximizing Transfer Credits** – Dual Credit, KCTCS, and 4-year transfers

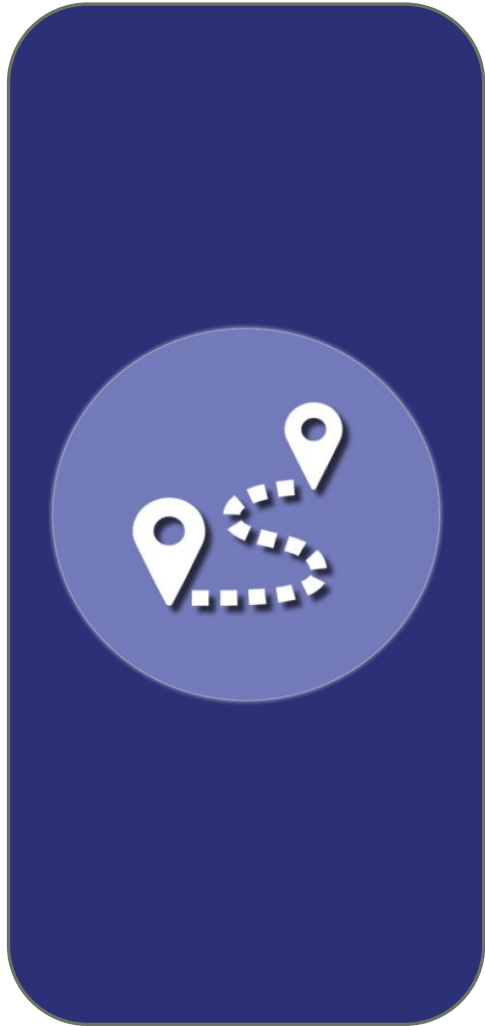
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TRANSITIONS

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** Total unduplicated number of students who enroll in an undergraduate program offered by one of Kentucky’s public colleges or universities in an academic year, either full-time or part-time.



*\*State Target: Total undergraduate enrollment in all sectors of 222,000 by 2030. Total enrollment surpassed 227,000 last fall – CPE is updating target.*

# UL'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TRANSITIONS



**Record Enrollment** – 25,005 students in Fall 2025

**Record Retention** – 84.1% Fall-to-Fall

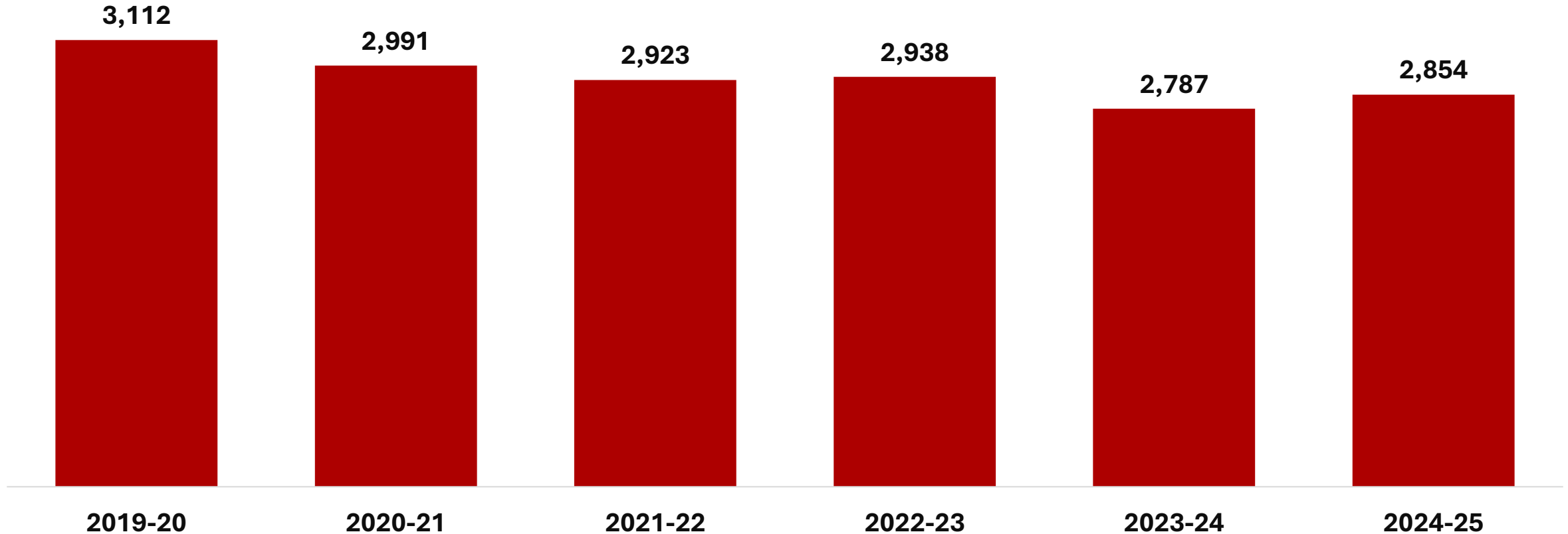
**Commonwealth's Top Transfer Destination** – UofL remains the leading destination for students transferring from both KCTCS and other 4-year institutions in Kentucky.

**Bridge Programs** – Math Xcelerator, TRIO, REACH tutoring

**Empowering Adult Learners** – Growing the General Studies degree targeted toward returning adults to get them to a degree

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

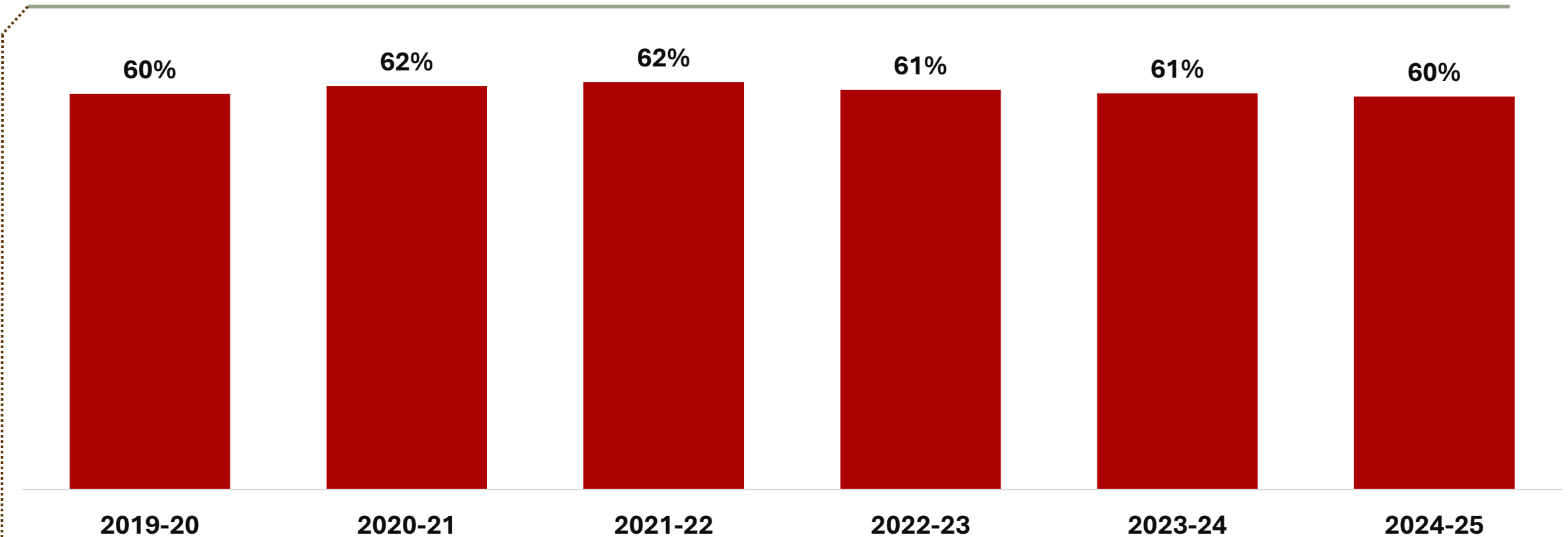
**Undergraduate Degrees & Credentials:** Number of bachelor's degrees awarded in an academic year.



**\*State Target:** To increase Kentucky's bachelor's attainment to the national average (~26% of the working age population by 2030), Kentucky will need 158,000 new degrees by 2030 (raising average annual production by about 4,000).

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

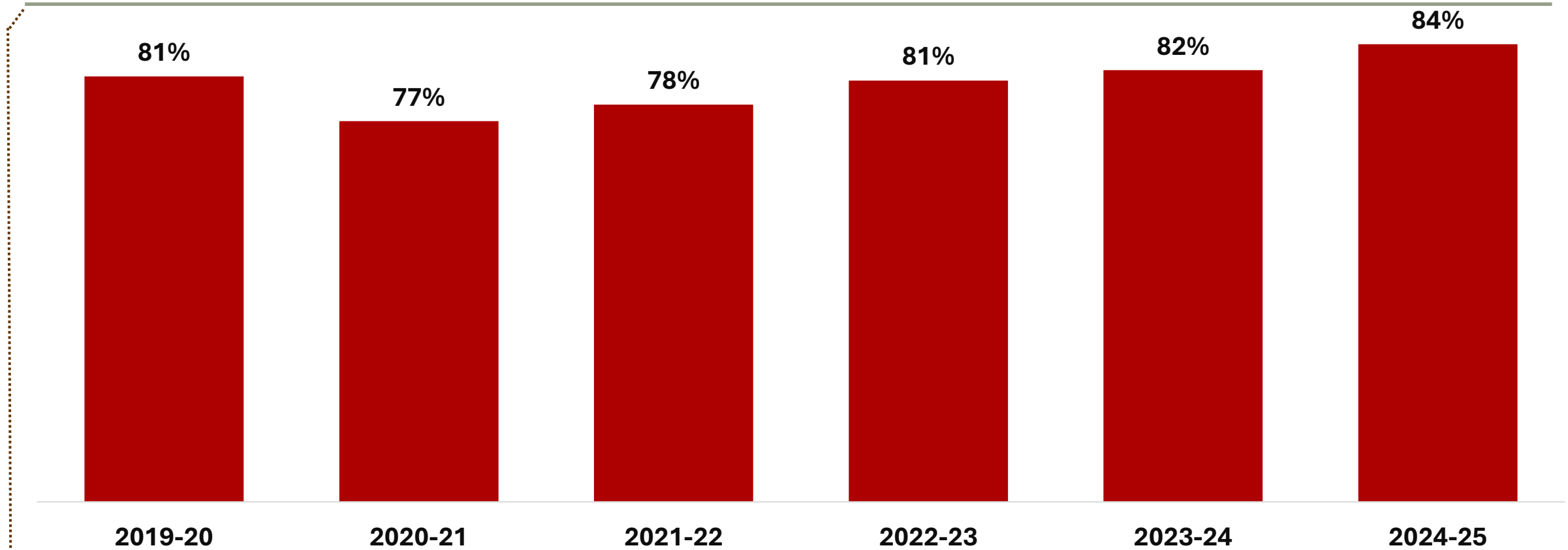
**Graduation Rate:** Percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students who receive an undergraduate degree within 6 years



*\*Benchmark Data: The latest available national rate among institutions in the same Carnegie Classification is 75%. The 2030 goal for all Kentucky four-year publics is 65%.*

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

**Retention Rate:** Percentage of first-time, degree- or credential-seeking students enrolled in the summer or fall of their first year who are still enrolled at the same institution the following fall.



*\*Benchmark Data: The latest available national rate among institutions in the same Carnegie Classification is 88%. The 2030 goal for all Kentucky four-year publics is 84%.*



# UL'S KEY STRATEGIES ON SUCCESS

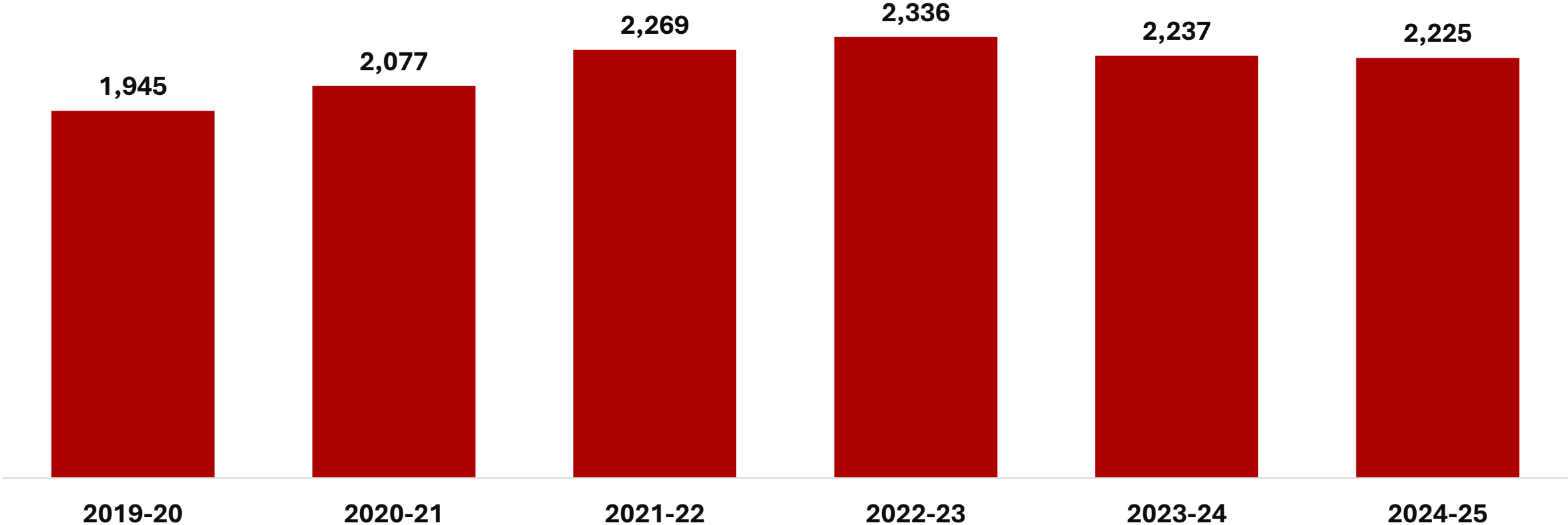


**Investing in retention** – Retention rate is a leading indicator of graduation rate

- **Financial Aid** – Addressing unmet financial need
- **Academic Support Services** – REACH, Summer Bridge programs, Academic Advising
- **Student Success Center** – First-gen meetup groups, peer mentoring, Student Emergency Fund, Exploratory Advising
- **Wraparound support** – mental health/counseling, “Hire Attire” professional clothing, Disability Resource Center, Financial Literacy peer counselors

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TALENT

**Graduate and Professional Degrees:** Total number of graduate/professional degrees awarded in an academic year.



*\*State Target: To increase Kentucky’s graduate attainment to the national average (17% of the working-age population) by 2030, the state will need 127,000 new degrees by 2030 (raising average annual production by about 2,200).*

# UL'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TALENT

## Healthcare

- Top producer of Nurses with BSN (**n=206**)
- Top producer of Dentists with DMD (**n=119**)
- Medical School class growing to **175 students**.
- Produced **70** (BSW) and **165** (MSW) level social workers
- Leading **SJR 116** study on healthcare in underserved areas.

## Speed School of Engineering

- Positioned to meet statewide manufacturing demand
- 3 mandatory, full-time Co-ops (totaling 1 year of employment) make students ready for work after graduation

## College of Education & Human Development

- Produced **49** BS level + **69** MAT level teachers

**Brandeis School of Law** -- Highest 2025 Bar passage rate in the state.

**Tracking Workforce Outcomes** -- New data system tracks employment for all graduates (where KYSTATS only tracks KY students who stay in KY)



# UL'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE

**Institutional Investments:** UofL increased institutional financial aid by **18% for FY26**, totaling over **\$92 million**, notably the **Cardinal Commitment Grant**.

**CAP and Pell:** Increases to State CAP awards and Federal Pell awards have boosted enrollment of low-income students

**UPS Metropolitan College:** A premier national model where students receive **100% tuition coverage** and a paycheck in exchange for working third-shift at the UPS Worldport hub

**A National Model for Economic Mobility:** As a Carnegie Opportunity College & University (OCU), UofL is an "engine of opportunity" that enrolls a representative student body with graduates who achieve **higher-than-average earnings** in the workforce compared to their peers.

**Unmatched R1 Value:** At **\$13,390 per year**, UofL's in-state tuition is approximately **15% lower** than the national average for public R1 research universities (approximately \$15,800 according to a *College Board/IPEDS 2025-26 Analysis*)







# CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



## EKU EXPANDS FACULTY RESEARCH FUNDING

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has expanded its investment in faculty research, awarding \$159,000 to 17 research projects. With an additional \$45,000 available for funding this spring, the university expects to invest more than \$200,000 in faculty research during the current fiscal year. Awarded through the University Funded Scholarship (UFS) program, the investments total more than five times the amount awarded last year.

“As the School of Opportunity, we have a responsibility to invest in ideas and people who drive innovation and discovery,” said EKU President David McFaddin. “This significant increase in faculty research funding reflects our commitment to providing opportunities for our students, strengthening our impact across the Commonwealth and building momentum for excellence in research.”

The UFS program supports faculty research with the goal of positioning projects for external funding. A University Research Committee (URC), composed of faculty from all six academic colleges, reviews proposals and recommends projects for funding.

The URC awarded 11 major projects—those with budgets up to \$15,000—and six mini projects—those with budgets up to \$3,000. Dr. Jason Fry, chair of the URC, said the committee was impressed by the emphasis on student involvement within this year’s funded projects.

“Our faculty continue to show their dedication to our students by providing them with new research opportunities,” said Fry. “The funding allows students to be employed by our researchers and get more involved with their excellent research.”

In addition to student engagement, seed funding provides faculty with resources to test methods, generate preliminary data and demonstrate feasibility.

The research projects seek to find creative and innovative solutions to issues facing their respective fields, holding potential for community, state and national influence. Spanning a variety of disciplines, the funded research projects include teacher recruitment and hiring, DNA recovery, assessments of law enforcement agencies, deepfake detection and food insecurity.

“The investment demonstrates confidence in the university’s faculty and students, strengthens capacity for externally funded research and positions EKU to address regional, state and national challenges through impactful scholarship,” said EKU Dean of Graduate Education and Research Administration Ryan Baggett.



## EKU INTRODUCES SKILLS-FOCUSED ESSENTIAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR FALL 2026

Eastern Kentucky University will transition from its traditional general education curriculum to Essential Education beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Essential Education reimagines ECU's foundational curriculum by ensuring every graduate develops clearly defined, transferable skills that help them beyond the classroom.

"I am proud of our faculty's work in designing a thoughtful, coherent program that supports the academic programs that our students pursue," said Provost Sara Zeigler. "Not all institutions reassess tradition in light of the changing academic environment. Our integration of the essential skills that employers seek is a key feature of the program that will make our students more successful as they move into their lives and careers after graduation."

The transition follows extensive campus feedback and reflects changing expectations in higher education and the workforce. Many students believe the general education structure feels too large, too costly and disconnected from their goals. Faculty and staff emphasized the need for flexibility and clearer alignment with the skills graduates need after college, such as critical thinking and problem-solving. At the same time, employers and state leaders are asking universities to better articulate what students can do with their degrees.

"Students will like Essential Education because it was designed with their experiences and priorities in mind," said Dr. Jennifer Wies, associate provost and professor of anthropology. "The program is streamlined, flexible and most importantly, transparent. It becomes something that supports their goals, rather than something they feel they just need to get through."

Essential Education is a 30-credit-hour requirement, fully aligned with accreditation and state expectations. This is lower than the previous general education requirement, which was 36 credit hours, streamlining the path to graduation without reducing academic quality.

## EKU SPIN THE WHEEL SCHOLARSHIP SENDS 16 STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD

Eastern Kentucky University's annual Spin the Wheel Scholarship event took place on Feb. 2, giving students the chance to win a fully funded study abroad opportunity. Students could submit an entry into the drawing prior to the event, then winners were drawn by the president, associate provost, deans and a member of the Foundation Board. In a game show format, each winner got to spin the wheel to land on a study abroad destination.

"Studying abroad is such a transformational opportunity for our students," said ECU President David McFaddin. "The Spin the Wheel Scholarship opens doors for students who might not otherwise have the chance to travel, learn and grow as global citizens."

Kaydence Reddington, a junior from Louisville, Kentucky, who will study abroad in Argentina, said, "I am thrilled to have this opportunity. Before this, I was not able to afford to go out of the country, so this gives me the opportunity to leave the country for the first time ever and experience something new."

The Spin the Wheel Scholarship is one of many initiatives at ECU providing financial assistance for study abroad.





## MSU President, Dr. Jay Morgan, Announces Plans for Campaign to Reach \$100 Million

Morehead State University President Dr. Jay Morgan announced an ambitious plan and a fundraising initiative to grow the University's fundraising efforts and endowment to \$100 million by 2029.

This transformative initiative marks one of the most significant philanthropic efforts in the institution's history and underscores MSU's commitment to long-term financial strength, student success, and academic innovation.

"Our endowment is an investment in people, our students, our faculty, and the communities we serve," Morgan said. "Reaching a \$100 million endowment will provide the stability and resources needed to ensure that MSU continues to deliver exceptional education and life-changing opportunities for generations to come."

The campaign, themed "For the Next," will focus on several institutional priorities, including:

- Student scholarships
- Academic program enhancement
- Research and experiential learning opportunities

The Division of University Advancement will lead the campaign in partnership with the MSU Foundation.

"Growing our endowment to \$100 million is bold, but it is also achievable," said Allison Caudill, vice president for University Advancement and CEO of the MSU Foundation. "This effort will position MSU for financial resilience and ensure that our students have access to the resources and support they need to thrive."



## **MSU hosts ribbon-cutting for updated Vet Tech Facilities**

Morehead State University held a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling the newly improved Veterinary Technology Facilities at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex and formally dedicating the Equine Health Building in honor of Professor Emeritus Dr. Phil Prater.

The event marked a significant step in MSU's ongoing campus revitalization plan and highlighted the achievements of the University's highly regarded veterinary technology program, which is ranked the best in Kentucky and 13th in the nation for academic strength, career preparation, and graduate success.

In addition to its top state and national rankings, the program was recently named the 2025 Program of the Year by the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators, the leading advocate for veterinary technician education. This award recognizes the program for excellence in leadership, innovation, and hands-on learning opportunities.

The improved facilities at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex include expanded laboratory and classroom spaces designed to enhance hands-on instruction and clinical training. These upgrades support the continued growth of the program, which has a reputation for producing highly sought-after graduates in the veterinary field.

## **Morehead State selected to track NASA's Artemis II mission**

Morehead State University has been selected by NASA's Space Communications and Navigation Program to support tracking of the Artemis II mission, the first crewed mission of the agency's Artemis campaign.

MSU is one of eight education partners worldwide selected to participate in this effort, joining 34 organizations from around the world. The University will contribute tracking data from its 21-meter high-gain antenna, Deep Space Station 17, located at the Space Science Center.

In late 2025, NASA issued a call for volunteer ground stations to help support radio tracking for Artemis II as part of a broader effort to evaluate and expand deep-space communications and navigation capabilities. Based on its day-to-day experience supporting missions in cislunar space and the advanced capabilities of its facilities, Morehead State outlined its tracking assets, operational approach, and ability to support the mission. NASA subsequently selected MSU for participation and provided the technical details required to prepare for operations.

Artemis II will launch aboard NASA's Space Launch System rocket and send the Orion spacecraft, with four astronauts on board, on a lunar flyby mission that will carry the crew around the Moon and safely back to Earth during an approximately 10-day journey. The mission marks the first time in more than 50 years that humans will travel this far from Earth and represents a critical milestone in NASA's plan for sustained lunar exploration and future missions to Mars.

## **MSU, KCTCS launch common course numbering for easier transfers**

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Morehead State University have announced a new common course numbering equivalency program designed to make transferring between the two institutions clearer and easier for students.

The initiative aligns course prefixes and numbers for widely taught general education classes, helping students better understand how credits transfer and apply toward their degrees. By using the same course numbers for equivalent classes, students, advisors, and faculty will have clear, consistent information from the start. This also helps ensure all coursework earned counts toward students' degrees.

This collaborative effort between KCTCS and Morehead State University is based on a shared belief that transfer pathways should be simpler. Similar programs in other states have shown that common course numbering reduces confusion, limits unnecessary course repetition, and supports timely degree completion.

### Murray State University launches EdSights resource for student success

Murray State University has partnered with EdSights, a resource that utilizes an AI-powered chatbot via text messaging to support student engagement and success.

The 24/7 resource provides assistance and connections for students in areas including academic advising, student life, health and wellness, and financial aid, among other resources.

Murray State remains committed to providing information about key resources to meet students where they are, utilizing current technology for dynamic two-way communication, and to complement the human connections between students and faculty and staff.

Students received their first text message in February from “Dunker,” the AI-powered chatbot which is named after Murray State’s mascot, with the University seeing an impressive 99% opt-in rate following the initial text message.



### Murray State University receives program approval from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine

Murray State University has received program approval from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, marking a significant step forward in its pursuit of a College of Veterinary Medicine.

Murray State has received approval and support from countless individuals and entities to pursue a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in order to advance the Commonwealth from numerous standpoints, particularly in areas of economic growth, workforce development, and industry needs.

“This is a significant step as we continue to make great strides in advancing this important initiative, which will greatly benefit our region and the Commonwealth. We are very grateful to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, led by President Dr. Aaron Thompson, for supporting our efforts as we move forward with offering a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University,” Murray State President Dr. Ron Patterson said. “I would also like to

thank both past and present members of our Board of Regents, my predecessor, Dr. Bob Jackson, and the leadership team, Murray State faculty, staff, and students, our west Kentucky delegation, and the General Assembly.”

Murray State is currently working toward obtaining American Veterinary Medical Association program accreditation.



### Murray State University continues to lead \$1.5 million environmental science initiative for regional high school students

Under the leadership of Principal Investigator and Associate Provost Dr. Renee Fister, Murray State University is utilizing a \$1.5 million Department of Energy (DOE) grant to integrate advanced environmental science into the curriculum at McCracken County High School (MCHS).

This Murray State-led initiative provides students with elite opportunities to apply classroom theory to real-world environmental challenges at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant site. A cornerstone of the project is the ASER Student Summary, where students translate complex federal data into accessible visual formats for the public. Led by Project Director Alexandra Sherwood, the program bridges the gap between high school STEM and professional scientific communication by allowing students to manage real-world research data.

On Jan. 7, students and faculty participated in a comprehensive site visit to the DOE

Paducah Site. DOE Engineer Mitchell Guthrie and his team provided an exceptional experience, offering students an immersive look at the environmental monitoring and engineering processes that protect the western Kentucky region.

This year’s collaboration with McCracken County High School continues the momentum established during the program’s inaugural year. In 2024, Murray State partnered with students from Paducah Tilghman and the Innovation Hub, that pioneered the program’s data visualization goals. Their work culminated in professional research posters exhibited at the Murray State University Paducah Regional Campus at the end of the spring 2025 semester. Following this successful model, MCHS students will also present their final research findings in a similar exhibition later this year.



## Cyber Team places first in Kentucky at the Midwest Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition

Murray State University's Cyber Team achieved first place in Kentucky on Feb. 7, at the Midwest Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition Qualifier. Competing against students specializing in cybersecurity from the University of Louisville and Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State emerged as the state champion.

The competition included a total of 17 teams, with additional participants from Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa. As a result of their success, the Cyber Team will represent Kentucky and has advanced to the 2026 Erich J. Spengler Midwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. This event is scheduled to take place at Purdue University Northwest on March 20-21.

Established in 2004, the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition provides motivated post-secondary students with an opportunity to practice managing and securing existing network infrastructures. This competition evaluates students' capabilities in designing, configuring and safeguarding a network, assessing their effectiveness in detecting and responding to external threats, ensuring the availability of services such as email and web servers,

addressing business requests such as adding or removing services, and balancing security requirements with business objectives.

Murray State's team consists of eight students who are currently enrolled in the Cybersecurity and Network Management program:

- Aiden Green (Taylorsville, Kentucky - team captain)
- Chelsea (Emery) Vickery (Madisonville, Kentucky - co-captain)
- Ryan Weathers (Crestwood, Kentucky)
- Erik Wilsey (Bloomfield, Kentucky)
- Dean Worley (Mayfield, Kentucky)
- Alex Holm (Louisville, Kentucky)
- Skyler Moyers (Murray, Kentucky)
- Eli Skipworth (Bowling Green, Kentucky)

The Murray State Cyber Team started as a student initiative in the fall of 2022, intending to foster interest in Capture the Flag events. As interest and participation in the Cyber Team grew, it was officially established as a student organization at Murray State University. Soon after, the team participated in its first competition at the National Center for Academic Excellence Cybergames, which provided valuable insights into the skill areas the team would focus on.

*Equal Opportunity Employer/AA.*



## Laura Foltz named Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services

Dr. Laura Foltz has been named Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services at Murray State University, beginning in her role earlier this semester.

Foltz brings 30 years of experience in fiscal management, operational improvement, and strategic transformation. Since 2013, she has served as Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration for Strategic Initiatives at the University of Tennessee at Martin, providing executive leadership with campuswide fiscal initiatives and enterprise modernization.

Her responsibilities have included leading consultant engagement for the university's master plan, developing and evaluating auxiliary service bids, directing campus enterprise resource planning, training, and overseeing year-end close entries. Foltz has been a campus expert and system liaison for policy, accreditation, and compliance, and provided market analyses for tuition restructuring, building utilization for capital requests, capital funding rationale for new projects, and operations review for service units.

Foltz holds a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt University, both a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from the University of Arkansas, and is a Certified Management Accountant from the Institute of Management Accountants.



MARCH 2026

# GOLD RUSH

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

### FOUNDERS' DAY IMPACT

**\$360K+**

raised

**1,200+**

donors

**100+**

programs supported



## NKU CELEBRATES 58TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY WITH 1,968 MINUTES OF GIVING

Northern Kentucky University raised more than \$360,000 in celebration of its 58th anniversary. For the last six years, NKU has marked Founders' Day with 1,968 minutes of giving in recognition of the university's founding year. The giving period began at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, and ran through 4:48 p.m. on Thursday, March 5.

"Founders' Day invites us to pause and reflect on how far NKU has come, and the people who made this progress possible," says NKU President Cady Short-Thompson. "What began as a single building six decades ago has grown into a vibrant, student-centered university shaped by the dedication of our faculty, staff, alumni and broader northern Kentucky region. The 1,968 minutes of giving is our community's way of turning pride into action and creating opportunities for today's students and future generations to come."

Founders' Day celebrates all things NKU, offering students, alumni, faculty and staff the opportunity to share their pride and invest in the university's future. This year's celebration included a series of gift matches and challenges to maximize donors' support. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members directed their contributions to their favorite department, scholarship fund, Norse athletics team or student-support service.

In 2025, thanks to the generous contributions of more than 1,100 donors, the NKU community raised nearly \$350,000 to benefit academic programs, scholarships, student support services and more. This year, NKU reached even further, inspiring more than 1,200 donors to contribute more than \$360,000 in support of the university and its mission for student success.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/founders-day-2026>

## COLLEGE CORNER

### HAILE GRADUATE PROGRAMS CLIMB IN 2026 U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

The Haile College of Business continues to climb national rankings, earning multiple recognitions among the top 100 universities across U.S. News & World Report's 2026 report. Most notably, NKU's online MBA program climbed 29 positions since 2025 and is now ranked 93rd in the nation. Additionally, U.S. News ranked Haile's Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program as 45th in the nation, improving by 21 positions since 2025, and the publication continues to recognize NKU's MBA program as a Best Online MBA Program for Veterans.

**LEARN MORE:**

<https://tinyurl.com/haile-us-news-2026>

## LONGTIME NKU FACULTY MAKES \$1 MILLION ENDOWMENT TO HAILE ECONOMICS PROGRAM

NKU's Haile College of Business celebrated International Study Abroad Day with a \$1 million endowment from longtime department chair and professor of economics Dr. Gary E. Clayton, and his wife, Dr. Jonna R. Clayton. The endowment aims to support study abroad opportunities and provide scholarships for students majoring in economics. Through the endowment, economics majors with a qualifying GPA will be eligible to participate in any semester-break study abroad programs, the four- to six-week summer programs and other qualifying international experiences that satisfy requirements within the economics degree track at no additional cost. As an undergraduate, Dr. Gary Clayton completed a semester-long study abroad program in Vienna, which he considers the most rewarding academic experience of his life. Since then, the Claytons have traveled to more than 100 countries and hope to provide NKU economics majors with similar transformational experiences that will enhance their personal and professional growth while inspiring future generations of students to pursue global learning opportunities.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/study-abroad-econ-endowment>



## THE SCOREBOARD

### NKU BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TENNIS COMPLEX

NKU broke ground on the new NKU Tennis Complex. Once completed, the complex will feature six new tennis courts and serve as the home of NKU's tennis programs. The new-and-improved complex will enhance the Norse student-athlete experience and support the growth of the university's tennis program while also providing recreational opportunities for students and the surrounding community.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/tennis-complex-groundbreaking>

## BRIEFS

### NKU EARNS INAUGURAL SACSCOC TORCH AWARD FOR AFFORDABILITY

NKU has been recognized by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) with a Torch Award for Affordability, an honor that recognizes institutions that demonstrate leadership in managing educational costs and expanding access for students.

"This recognition from SACSCOC affirms what we work toward every day, making a high-quality education a realistic and achievable goal for students and families," says NKU President Cady Short-Thompson. "We are proud to be acknowledged for prioritizing affordability while continuing to invest in student success."

The Torch Awards recognize colleges and universities that show sustained commitment to student-centered decision-making and measurable improvement. In the award's affordability measures, NKU showed strength in average net price for low-income students, 10-year net price trend for low-income students, five-year change in total cost of attendance and total cost of attendance. Together, these indicators highlight NKU's efforts to expand access while maintaining educational quality and student success.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-torch-award-sacscoc>

## FACULTY FOCUS

### NKU FACULTY LEADS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO RESTORE HISTORIC BLACK CHURCH

In Augusta, Kentucky, a movement is underway to tell a story more than 200 years in the making. The St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1884 and served as a spiritual home for the town's Black community for generations. Now, NKU professor Dr. David Childs is helping to breathe life back into the aging structure by leading the project's fundraising and planning efforts. The group working on this project, backed by the Clooney family, hopes to create a vibrant gathering space that honors the legacy of Augusta's early Black community.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/NKU-faculty-church-restoration>

### NKU LAUNCHES BUDDY CHECK PROGRAM FOR STUDENT VETERANS

NKU has launched a new program called Buddy Check to provide additional support for veterans transitioning from military service to college life. The program pairs veterans with specialized student managers who check in with fellow veterans through calls, texts and in-person visits from enrollment through graduation. Dr. Rusty Mardis, assistant director of the Veterans Resource Station at NKU, said the program addresses a significant challenge facing military members.

"So militarytransition.org did a study, it's over a 20-year study now, that found that 76% of all military members, when they get out, struggle when they first get out," he says.

Dr. Mardis ran 278 combat missions while in the U.S. Air Force, and says veterans often struggle to find community after leaving the military. This inspired him to create the Veterans Resource Station at NKU, a gathering hub where veterans can access local resources and partnerships with the Kentucky National Guard and Xavier Army ROTC program. The station was launched more than 15 years ago as one of the first in the region with a USO-style concept designed to rebuild the camaraderie many veterans miss from active duty.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/VRS-buddy-check-program>



## ALUMNI NEWS

### NEW ALUMNI BOARD LEADERS REFLECT ON THEIR NKU JOURNEY

C. Alyse Bender Hoffer's NKU story began long before she arrived on campus as a first-year student. Growing up, she often joined her father, J. David Bender, at NKU basketball games, sports camps and homecoming events. She later followed in his footsteps, becoming a double graduate of NKU and the Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Now, Hoffer joins her father on the NKU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/new-alumni-board-leaders>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2026

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



## BECOMING THE AI UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

In November 2025, the University of Kentucky and Microsoft announced an official partnership to advance the responsible use of AI. Through this partnership, the university has launched many new initiatives, including the Commonwealth AI Transdisciplinary Strategy (CATS AI) and a new course for students – TEK 100.

TEK 100 is an asynchronous, one-credit-hour course that teaches students fundamental AI concepts, practical hands-on skills to advance creative collaborations with AI and ethical complexities of AI through opinions, case reports and AI simulations. A free, online and asynchronous training on AI basics is now being offered to faculty and staff, based on material taught in TEK 100.

In late February, UK hosted its first-ever event in partnership with Microsoft, "CATS AI in Action." During this event, the university showcased various groups through AI engagement zones, including an AI incubator from UK HealthCare, 3D printing from the College of Design, real-time game coding and faculty integration from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

Also among the several highlighted projects was a prototype from UK HealthCare of an AI agent ambient listening tool to demonstrate the power of natural-language tools in helping navigate the health system. And, as a testament to their passion, a group of students presented a program they built to enhance and reinforce in-classroom learning for students and faculty.

## EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

The University of Kentucky is proud to share that the Advancing Kentucky Together Network (AKT Network) has garnered many new partnerships in recent months, including the Kentucky Primary Care Association (KPCA). With this partnership, UK and KPCA will work to expand health care access, address workforce shortages in a critical field and improve health outcomes across Kentucky, particularly in areas that need us most.

Also joining the AKT Network is the Community-Based Pharmacy Solutions for All (CPESN). This partnership is intended to develop training opportunities for health care workers and create a new rural health disparity project, among other joint efforts.

And in the month of April, the new AI Literacy and Training Hub (ALT Hub) will offer foundational AI literacy trainings to partners in the AKT Network. The CATS AI ALT Hub is a gathering place for learning, training, navigating and responsibly adopting AI for faculty, staff and students on campus.



## SUPPORT FOR WHAT WE DO

University of Kentucky has been gifted \$50 million for advancing pediatric care from the Golisano Foundation. The gift, announced by philanthropist Tom Golisano, is the largest in UK HealthCare history and will support the university's mission to improve children's health in Kentucky through expanded access to advanced care and enhanced research and development to address the most pressing issues.

This is the power of partnership — a value the Golisano Foundation advances across the country. It reflects a shared belief that when we come together, we can reach further, care more deeply and create lasting change for every community we serve across all 120 counties. Ultimately, the gift makes possible something simple yet profound: more birthdays, more first days and graduations — more moments that shape a life. UK HealthCare is proud to be home to the Golisano Children's Hospital at UK. When we advance the care of our children, we advance Kentucky's future.





# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISSUE 136  
FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026



Dear Colleagues,

The University of Louisville continues to make steady progress toward its aspirational goals of being a great place to learn, discover, connect and work.

The new year kicked off with the approval of our university's 2026-2030 Igniting Potential, Shaping Tomorrow strategic plan. It's a plan that went through several revisions over the course of a year and drew on insights provided by our students, faculty, staff, alumni and strategic partners. This plan belongs to our entire university community and serves as the guiding light for every decision we make, every dollar we allocate and every action we take. It is a roadmap for how we move forward together and was the focus on my recent State of the University address.

We are certainly excited about UofL's future, but even now the impact of our university is being recognized across the state, the nation and the world.

I, along with our athletic director, Josh Heird, UofL Health CEO Jason Smith and two of our trustees, Christopher Dischinger and John Hollenbach, are honored to be selected among Louisville Business First's Power 50 influencers for 2026. While such recognitions are always nice, I cannot overstate the value of all the work behind the scenes that our faculty, staff and students do to make our university great. And so, this recognition is one that we share with our entire UofL community.

Our recent Cardinals at the Capitol event showcased the talented individuals who no doubt have bright futures. At least 40 UofL students representing more than a dozen majors from 15 different counties across the Commonwealth participated in the event. I am confident that they too will be recognized for their amazing contributions to society.

One UofL shining star recently rose high above and beyond the Commonwealth. Alumnus Richard Wilson II will take his talents to China as the first Schwarzman Scholar from a Kentucky public university. He will be in a cohort of individuals who will study leadership, China and global affairs at Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University in Beijing.

And the recognition doesn't stop there. The work of two of UofL's cancer researchers is among the top 1% cited in the world, according to Clarivate Analytics. Also, our sustainability program continues to garner recognition. According to the 2026 QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Sustainability Ranking, UofL was positioned among the top 32% worldwide.

So, here we are. Just a few months into the new year with many more opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

Gerry Bradley



President,  
University of Louisville



## UofL cancer research among top 1% most cited in the world

Two University of Louisville cancer researchers have been named Highly Cited Researchers for 2025 by Clarivate Analytics. Huang-Ge Zhang, a professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and endowed chair in cancer research at the Brown Cancer Center, and Jun Yan, chief of the Division of Immunotherapy in the Department of Surgery, are included in the 2025 report. Clarivate provides data, insights and analytics for academia, life sciences, health care and other fields and has compiled listings of the top 1% of researchers annually since 2014.

In a separate published list, more than 100 UofL researchers are listed among the top 2% most-cited in their fields in 2024, according to an updated list by a Stanford University researcher with data from Elsevier. UofL researchers on the Elsevier list represent eight of the university's schools and colleges: Arts & Sciences, Business, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Public Health & Information Sciences.



## UofL president named one of Louisville's most influential people

President Gerry Bradley's impact on the city has been recognized by Louisville Business First. Bradley is one of the publication's Power 50 2026 list, along with Josh Heird, UofL director of athletics. Jason Smith, CEO of UofL Health and a UofL professor of surgery, also is recognized in the Power 50 2026 class of 5 on the Rise. It is the first Power 50 recognition for all three men. Two members of the UofL Board of Trustees, Christopher Dischinger and John Hollenbach, also are among those recognized.



## UofL legislative interns, leaders participate in Cardinals at the Capitol

University of Louisville executive and student leaders recently spent time in Frankfort connecting with lawmakers to discuss recent successes, ongoing priorities and the university's impact across the Commonwealth.

At least 40 UofL students participating in the Frankfort internship program were part of the vital cadre of student leadership represented at Cardinals at the Capitol. These students represent more than a dozen different majors and 15 counties across the Commonwealth. Interns are assigned to both political parties and members of the House of Representatives and Senate within the Kentucky General Assembly. Students learn from legislators ranging from freshmen to party leaders and committee chairs

UofL legislative interns and student leaders at the Capitol on Feb. 26.



## UofL looks to the future in State of University address

Momentum is on the rise at the University of Louisville. Energy, optimism and a clear strategic direction are shaping the institution's next chapter, powered by a new strategic plan designed to ignite UofL's potential and shape tomorrow. Central to that vision is UofL's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, which outlines efforts to make the university a great place to learn, work, discover and connect. Along with each of the strategic plan areas, Bradley noted that the university intends to sharpen its focus on key student-centered metrics including enrollment, six-year retention rates, degrees awarded and experiential-learning opportunities.

He also underscored the university's critical role in improving health outcomes in Kentucky through UofL Health, calling attention to the training of physicians and UofL's place as part of the state's medical safety net.

Even as higher education institutions across the state and nation face significant challenges, Bradley emphasized that UofL continues to perform well, is financially stable and offers a strong value proposition for Kentucky students and those beyond the Commonwealth.

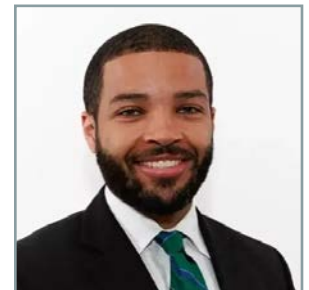
## UofL alum named Schwarzman Scholar, first from public Kentucky university

University of Louisville alumnus Richard Wilson II has been selected for the 2026-27 Schwarzman Scholars cohort. Wilson is the first UofL graduate and the first scholar from a public Kentucky university to earn the elite honor, joining only three others from the state.

The Schwarzman Scholars program is a one-year, fully funded master's degree in global affairs at Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University in Beijing. The curriculum focuses on leadership, China and global affairs and includes academic instruction from faculty at Tsinghua University and other global institutions.

Wilson, a two-time graduate of UofL's Industrial & Systems Engineering department in the J.B. Speed School of Engineering, will be based in Beijing from August 2026 through July 2027, taking part in immersive experiences focused on China's global role.

Alumnus Richard Wilson II



Alums David and Linda Anderson

## Andersons invest in future of accounting

David and Linda Anderson recently made a \$2.5 million gift to establish the Anderson Chair of Accounting in the College of Business, creating a permanently endowed faculty position that will strengthen accounting education, research and student mentorship for generations to come. For the Andersons, the gift is about gratitude and paying forward the opportunities that shaped their own lives.

During her undergraduate years, Linda Raymer Anderson '70, '78 was assigned to the admissions and registrar's offices as part of her participation in UofL's work study program. After graduation, she joined the staff full time and remained there for 13 years, ultimately serving as assistant director of admissions. She later earned her master's degree in counseling and personnel services from the College of Education and Human Development in 1978—another example of how UofL remained central to her professional growth.

After earning his MBA from the College of Business, David Anderson '69, '73 began his career in banking and later transitioned into the health care industry, working for Humana and Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). Over a distinguished 38-year career, he rose to become senior vice president of finance and treasurer at HCA. Today, he continues his connection to UofL through service on the University of Louisville Foundation Board of Directors.

# NEWS FOR THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

APRIL 2026

## WKU Online recognized as a top national program and among Kentucky's best

Several WKU Online programs are earning national attention once again, with multiple programs recognized in the 2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs rankings.

WKU's online bachelor's program ranked 77th nationally, making it the second-best program in Kentucky. According to U.S. News & World Report, rankings are based on factors such as faculty credentials and training, student engagement, available services and technology and expert opinions on academic quality. More than 1,000 programs are evaluated annually to determine the rankings.

"These rankings affirm the intentional work our faculty and academic teams have done to continuously strengthen our online programs," said Dr. Holli Drummond, Assistant Provost for Student Success & Online Learning. "We are proud to see that commitment reflected in improved outcomes, increased national visibility, and, most importantly, student success."

Beyond the overall bachelor's ranking, several individual WKU Online programs posted strong performances this year. WKU's



online undergraduate business program ranked 32nd in the nation, and the veteran's bachelor's program placed 47th. The veteran's MBA program climbed to 45th, and veteran's graduate education ranked 37th nationally. The Online Undergraduate Business program also improved its position, moving up to 71st after ranking 75th in the previous year.

WKU Online continues to stand out for its flexible, fully online programs designed to support busy, working adults. Courses are taught by the same experienced faculty who teach on campus, ensuring students receive the same high-quality instruction in an online format. WKU Online offers a broad range of undergraduate and graduate degrees and has several certificate programs to meet the most sought-after job skills.

## WKU Forensics earns top spot at 2026 Kentucky Forensics Association



WKU Forensics clinched the top spot at the 2026 Kentucky Forensics Association hosted by Murray State University on February 6-8. Students from WKU Forensics won the state championship in all 14 varsity events across speech and debate. **Somtoo Nkurumeh** of Moore, Oklahoma, won Quadrathon, an award for accumulating the most points in individual events. Senior **Amerya Puranik** of Mountain House, California, was recognized as the State Champion in Varsity IPDA debate and earned the Harlan Hamm Award, an award given to students for their leadership and excellence both in competition and in their academic endeavors and community service.

WKU won first place in KFA large school individual events sweepstakes and was named the Kentucky Forensics Association Grand Champion for the 33rd consecutive year, an unparalleled record of excellence in state competition.



## WKU receives the 2026 Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for campus internationalization

Western Kentucky University is one of eight universities in the nation selected by NAFSA: Association of International Educators to receive a 2026 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization.

Named after the late Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, the awards celebrate outstanding commitment and accomplishment in campus internationalization.

WKU is one of three universities awarded The Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award, which recognizes a specific program or initiative that is “outstanding and innovative” and contributes to internationalization on campus. WKU was recognized for the WKU Resilient Refugee Program.

“From our founding, WKU has been committed to providing the highest quality education for qualified students to support the economic, cultural and creative growth of our surrounding communities,” said Dr. John Sunnygard, WKU Associate Provost for Global Learning and International Affairs.

“This honor is shared by all at WKU, including our faculty, staff and students who are committed to maintaining a welcoming place to learn,” said Dr. Sunnygard. “Equally, the award goes to our refugee students who have worked hard to achieve average GPAs of 3.5, worked outside the classroom to support themselves and their families and have committed to adding to our local economy.”

Institutions selected for the Simon Awards will be featured in NAFSA’s annual report, *Internationalizing the Campus: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities*, to be published this fall, and honored during NAFSA’s 2026 Annual Conference & Expo this spring. To learn more about NAFSA’s Senator Paul Simon Awards, visit [nafsa.org/SimonAward](https://nafsa.org/SimonAward).

About WKU Global: WKU Global is an organization that advises and provides support to students who want to study abroad, including domestic and international students.

## WKU releases renderings for the first facility in its multi-year initiative to transform student housing on the Hill

Western Kentucky University released new renderings for the first facility in its multi-year initiative to transform student housing on the Hill, offering the campus community and public a detailed look at the design of a modern, student-centered residential complex that will anchor the next generation of on-campus living at WKU.

The renderings illustrate the planned replacement of Hugh Poland and Douglas Keen Halls with a new, roughly 1,000-bed residential complex to be constructed on the same site. The project represents Phase 1 of WKU’s comprehensive housing transformation plan, which the university has termed Elevate WKU, made possible through a public-private partnership (P3) with Gilbane. The facility marks a visible step forward in the university’s long-term strategy to modernize residential facilities and elevate the student experience.

The new facility is designed around flexibility, community and academic connection. Plans call for a mix of private and semi-private suite-style rooms that give students more choice in how they live, paired with shared spaces intentionally designed to foster interaction and belonging. Each residential area will be supported by community kitchens, collaborative lounges and modern study spaces that promote both social and academic engagement. The design also includes purpose-built environments to support the continued expansion of Living Learning Communities, allowing WKU to more closely integrate where students live with how they learn.

In addition to supporting community and collaboration, the facility will incorporate modern safety, accessibility and security features throughout the building. The design emphasizes energy-efficient systems and sustainable construction practices, aligning with WKU’s broader commitment to responsible stewardship and long-term operational efficiency. Technology-enabled learning and living spaces will be integrated across the complex to support today’s student expectations for connectivity, hybrid learning and digital engagement.

The release of the renderings follows the WKU Board of Regents’ December approval of a pre-development agreement with Gilbane. Since that approval, WKU and Gilbane have continued refining program elements, design features and site planning to ensure the new complex reflects student needs, supports university priorities and delivers long-term value.

The first phase of the housing transformation initiative represents an investment of approximately \$350 million. That total includes construction of the new residence hall, defeasance of Student Life Foundation debt and significant repairs and renovations to existing facilities. Future phases of the master plan will address additional residence hall upgrades, explore new living-learning models and further align residential design with WKU’s academic mission and student success goals.

WKU President Timothy C. Caboni highlighted the important role that residence halls play in building connections among students. “On-campus living is a cornerstone of the WKU Experience,” he said. “Time spent in our residence halls fosters independence while cultivating a strong sense of community and lifelong connections among our Hilltoppers. This investment reflects our commitment to creating modern, competitive environments that meet the evolving expectations of our students and families. By taking this bold step forward, we are ensuring WKU remains a vibrant, student-centered university for generations to come.”

The facility is being designed by Mackey Mitchell Architects, a nationally respected architecture and planning firm with deep expertise in higher education, particularly student housing and campus life projects. Known for designs that balance aesthetics, functionality and long-term durability, the firm has worked on a number of campus projects, including at the University of Arkansas, Syracuse University and Penn State. Their work emphasizes sustainability and flexibility, helping institutions create living environments that feel both modern and enduring.

The new residence hall complex is projected to open in fall 2028. Renderings of the new facility are located at [www.wku.edu/elevate](https://www.wku.edu/elevate).



### Humana Announces New Scholarship Program for Nursing Students and Becomes Second Statewide Education First Employer and First from the Private Sector

Humana is investing in a new program with Jefferson Community and Technical College to strengthen and support Kentucky's nursing workforce.

In announcing the launch of the Humana Scholars program, Humana joined the Kentucky Community and Technical College System's network of Education First Employers, partnering with Jefferson Community and Technical College.

Humana is investing a total of \$125,000 in the Humana Scholars program, which includes two components – a Scholarship Fund and a Student Support Fund – to help train and support a pipeline of skilled nurses. The program will offer both scholarships and help reduce barriers, like food insecurity or lack of transportation, for first-year nursing students at Jefferson interested in a home health nursing career. Eight students will be selected initially.

While the Humana Scholars program is initially offered at Jefferson, it is designed as a core component of Humana's broader Education First Employer partnership with KCTCS. Other colleges in the system may be added to the Humana Scholars program later. Jefferson was selected as the initial site based on its scale, program mix, and proximity to Humana's workforce in Louisville.

Home health is one of the fastest-growing areas of healthcare, driven by an aging population, advances in technology that allow more complex care to be delivered in the home, and patient preference to receive care in the most comfortable and cost-effective setting. Home health nurses play a critical role in helping patients recover from illness, manage chronic conditions, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations, and maintain independence.

CenterWell Home Health, part of Humana's health care services division, is one of America's leading providers of home health care, providing home-centered health care in 37 states. Including CenterWell as well as other lines of business, Humana employs more than 10,000 nurses.

KCTCS launched the Education First Employer initiative in 2023 in partnership with the state of Kentucky and Family Scholar House. Companies that qualify to participate in the program share similar values and have shown a commitment to go above and beyond to support employees through education and training. The program recognizes organizations in key sectors that are dedicated to promoting accessible education and investing in their workforce. The designation helps companies attract and retain quality, engaged employees, which enhances the skillset of Kentucky's workforce. Participants are supported as both students and employees, allowing more Kentuckians to achieve educational attainment and economic stability.

### BY THE NUMBERS:



MORE THAN  
**110,000** STUDENTS  
FROM ALL  
**120** COUNTIES  
enrolled in **credit-bearing coursework.**

KCTCS IS **#1**  
IN THE NATION  
in **credentials**  
**awarded per capita**  
BY PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

**74%** OF KCTCS STUDENTS  
GRADUATE  
**DEBT FREE.**

## KCTCS License Plate Now Available Across Kentucky

A KCTCS specialty license plate is now available at county clerks' offices across Kentucky. With every registration, \$10 goes directly to student emergency funds, helping remove non-academic barriers and keeping KCTCS students enrolled and on track to earn their credentials.

KCTCS must maintain at least 500 registrations each year to keep the plate in circulation. With continued promotion from college communities, the initiative can continue supporting students across the Commonwealth. Kentuckians can also contribute to KCTCS emergency funds without purchasing a plate by making a donation through their county clerk.



## USDA Rural Development Announces Workforce Program for Hazard Plumbing Students

KCTCS, Hazard Community and Technical College and USDA Rural Development announced a more than \$93,000 investment to support workforce training and economic development in southeastern Kentucky.

The funding will support the launch of a one-year training initiative focused on plumbing career education, including access to credentialed training for second-chance employment.

The initiative reflects KCTCS' commitment to expanding access to practical, credentialed education for individuals who are incarcerated or in recovery. By aligning training with high-demand skills, KCTCS is creating pathways to stability and employment while strengthening the workforce and improving quality of life across the region.

The grant, funded through the USDA Rural Business Development Grant program, is expected to support more than 20 people. It will address workforce needs and create pathways to stable employment in high-demand trades.



## Serving Up Solutions Raises More Than \$55,000 for Food Pantries Benefiting KCTCS Students

KCTCS is taking steps to address food insecurity among its students and employees. In February, KCTCS hosted the 9th annual Serving Up Solutions event, which raised more than \$55,000 for food pantries at campuses across the state.

In a study conducted by Trellis Research last year, 48 percent of KCTCS students who responded reported they did not know where their next meal was coming from. Around one in six Kentuckians experience food insecurity, and nearly 16 percent do not know where their next meal will come from. Each year, Serving Up Solutions invites state legislators to demonstrate their commitment to addressing food insecurity in Kentucky by donning aprons and serving food to attendees.





### Independent colleges helping to boost overall state enrollment



Mason Dyer  
AIKCU President

AIKCU is pleased to see that our independent colleges and universities continue to contribute substantially to Kentucky's overall postsecondary enrollment growth.

The overall enrollment increase among AIKCU institutions for Fall 2025 shows that students and families continue to recognize the value Kentucky's independent colleges offer as they seek to prepare for careers and lives of purpose.

### CPE data critical to annual reports

We appreciate the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, which provided the Fall 2025 enrollment data.

CPE releases updates each February after enrollment data collection closes, with the full report and interactive dashboards published in mid-February. The report looks at undergraduate enrollment across the Kentucky Community & Technical College System, public four-year universities, and AIKCU-affiliated independent institutions.

Kentucky is widely recognized as having one of the strongest P20 data systems in the country in KYSTATS.

The fact that AIKCU institutions have voluntarily participated in CPE data collections for more than three decades, and that CPE staff works collaboratively with our institutions to ensure the data is collected and verified, has contributed significantly to this first-class system that helps Kentucky track outcomes and informs policy decisions.

### NEW REPORT: Enrollment growth strong at Kentucky's independent colleges and universities



Photo courtesy of Centre College



Fall 2025 undergraduate enrollment jumped 5.9% for a record 36,209, the third year in a row for a significant enrollment increase on AIKCU member campuses.

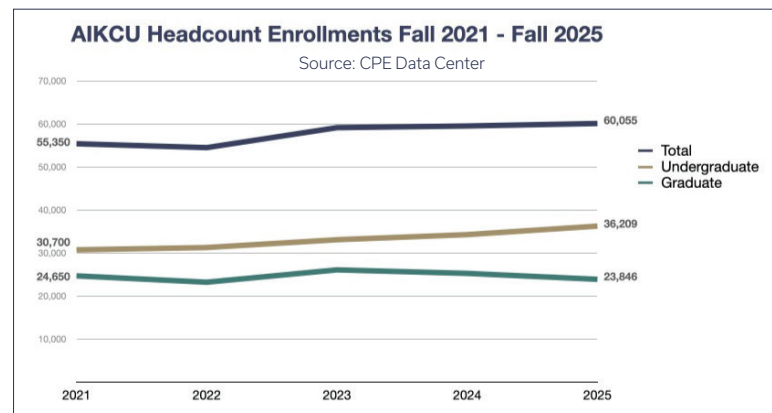
### Enrollment up third year in a row at independent colleges

Enrollment continues to increase at a healthy pace at Kentucky's 18 independent colleges and universities, which saw a 5.9% increase in undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2025.

Undergraduate enrollment reached a record 36,209, while overall enrollment

(undergraduate and graduate) hit a record 60,055.

This is the third year in a row for significant growth at AIKCU member institutions. Undergraduate enrollment increased 5.6% for Fall 2023, 3.7% for Fall 2024, and 5.9% for Fall 2025.



### AIKCU Fall 2025 Enrollment at a Glance

5.9% increase to record 36,209 in undergraduate enrollment.

Record 60,055 in total headcount (undergraduate and graduate) enrollment, a 1% increase from Fall 2024.

22% increase in adult (25-64) undergraduate enrollment.

14.9% jump in first-time undergraduate enrollment.

4.9% increase in overall enrollment (undergraduate and graduate) from Fall 2020-Fall 2025.

AIKCU growth contributed to 5% increase in Kentucky's overall statewide enrollment of both public and independent institutions, well over national average of 1%.

## AIKCU kicks off leadership development program for new class of rising leaders

"Empowered, eye-opening, enlightening, energizing, motivating, affirming, introspective, encouraging, momentum, inspiring, and ameliorating."

These are a few of the words participants used to describe their first session of the Advancing Leaders Program at Transylvania University.

The Class of 2026 is the second cohort taking part in an annual leadership development program for rising higher education leaders offered by AIKCU in conjunction with Credo.

AIKCU launched the program in 2025 with the goal of preparing promising mid- to senior-level managers to take on even greater leadership roles in higher education.

See who's in the Class of 2026 at [www.aikcu.org/advancing-leaders-class-of-2026](http://www.aikcu.org/advancing-leaders-class-of-2026).



AIKCU welcomed the Advancing Leaders Class of 2026 to the program at Transylvania University in February.

## Presidents from Kentucky's independent colleges meet with members of Congress during Hill Day

Winter Storm Fern couldn't keep our independent college and university presidents and AIKCU President Mason Dyer from traveling to Washington, D.C., for AIKCU's annual meeting with the Kentucky congressional delegation.

AIKCU coordinated the Capitol Hill meetings, which took place Feb. 3. The group met with U.S. Reps. Andy Barr, James Comer, Brett Guthrie, Morgan McGarvey, and Hal Rogers. They also met with staff from the offices of Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul.

AIKCU appreciates the nine presidents who attended Hill Day: University of Pikeville President and AIKCU Board Chair **Burton J. Webb**, **James O. Stepp** of Alice Lloyd College, **Susan M. Donovan** of Bellarmine University, **Cheryl L. Nixon** of Berea College, **Madison C. Silvert** of Brescia University, **John P. Marsden** of Midway University, **Brien Lewis** of Transylvania University, **DJ Washington** of

Union Commonwealth University, and **Quentin Young** of the University of the Cumberlands.

The group also included senior staff from Centre College, Lindsey Wilson University, Midway University, the University of Pikeville, and the University of the Cumberlands.

The AIKCU contingent expressed appreciation to Kentucky's representatives for the continued funding for student aid programs in the FY26 federal budget, which was voted upon and passed while AIKCU was on the Hill. The presidents also discussed challenges emerging during implementation of the One Big Beautiful Bill and the substantial economic impact of Kentucky's independent colleges on communities throughout the commonwealth.

AIKCU Hill Day was held in conjunction with the NAICU Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day.



During Hill Day 2026, Kentucky's independent college presidents and AIKCU President Mason Dyer met with U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (left), U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie (center), and U.S. Rep. James Comer (right).

Not pictured: Meetings with U.S. Reps. Morgan McGarvey and Hal Rogers, and visits with staff from the offices of Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul.