

Southern Utah University Updated List of Peer Institutions (Spring 2024)

In compliance with NWCCU's Standards 1.D.2 and 1.D.3, and in response to a request from the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) to update SUU's list of peer institutions in accordance with [R508](#), SUU engaged in a process to identify an updated list of 12 peer institutions in April 2024. After a careful review of IPEDS data, the following list of 12 peer institutions has been identified:

1. Central Washington University (WA) *
2. Fort Hays State University (KS)
3. Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (PA)
4. Murray State University (KY)
5. Northwest Missouri State University (MO)
6. Southeast Missouri State University (MO)
7. State University of New York at Oswego (NY)
8. SUNY Brockport (NY)
9. University of Nebraska at Kearney (NE)
10. University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (WI)
11. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (WI)
12. Weber State University (UT) *

Institutions with * are considered regional peer comparators because they are also accredited by NWCCU. The selection process leading to this updated list of peer institutions followed these steps:

Step 1: Cast a Wide Net

Identify a broad group of institutions using IPEDS categories, including: Sector (Public, 4-Year or Above), Degree-Granting Status (Degree-Granting), Highest Degree Offered (Master's Degree; Doctor's Degree - Professional Practice), Institutional Category (Degree-Granting, Primarily Baccalaureate or Above), and Institutional Size Category (5,000-9,000 and 10,000-19,999). Several other IPEDS categories were also used (Admissions Policy, First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates, Carnegie Classification, and Degree of Urbanization / Locale). In addition, the following regional institutions in USHE were included: Utah Tech University, Utah Valley University, and Weber State University. All other USHE institutions were also included during this step. As a result, a total of 47 institutions (including SUU) were included in this preliminary group.

Step 2: Comparisons & Analysis

Systematic comparisons were then completed using 40 different IPEDS criteria. For example, comparisons were conducted according to such factors as: undergraduate and graduate enrollment, cost of attendance, graduation and retention rates, student-to-faculty ratio, degrees awarded, amount of state support, instructional and academic support expenses (as a percentage of total core expenses), and average faculty salary.

Through a series of calculations and a robust analysis across these 40 criteria, a group of 17 institutions was identified based on each institution's overall similarity to SUU. Those 17 institutions were then rank-ordered in terms of similarity to SUU.

Step 3: Final List of 12 Peer Institutions

Based on the rank-ordered list of 17 institutions, SUU identified the top 12 institutions as its list of peer institutions. A complete spreadsheet is also available that includes a full account of IPEDS data, peer institutions, and calculations.