



# UTAH

## State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	75% of Utah high schools participate. There is greater access to AP through the <u>Western Consortium of Accelerated Learning Opportunities (WCALO)</u> program.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-income students</li> <li>• Racial and ethnic minority students</li> </ul>	Yes	Consortium for Accelerated Learning Opportunities (WCALO) funding
<b>Bridge Programs</b>	Yes	Includes pre-college orientations	Yes	Often through the TRIO program	No	
<u>Charter Schools</u>	Yes	Providing additional educational options for students with small school learning environment to produce high performance	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At-risk students</li> <li>• Disadvantaged students</li> </ul>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State funds follow the student</li> <li>• Local funding</li> </ul>
<b>College Level Exam Program (CLEP)</b>	Yes	Each university has a specific policy regarding which tests are accepted for college credit.	No		DK	No details known or available
<b>Cottonwood High School</b>	Yes	High school with a heavy math and science that is linked to colleges	No		No	
<b>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</b>	Yes	Through the Utah Electronic College	No		Yes	Utah Electronic College is administered by the state. Utah Education network in partnership with Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and Utah State Office of Higher Education (USHE).
<u>Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment</u>	Yes	Called concurrent enrollment	No		No	Local funding by school districts
<b>Early or Middle College High Schools</b>	Yes	At least 3 programs draw students from across districts and are supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in conjunction with the state	Yes	At-risk students	Yes	Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in conjunction with the Governor's Office and Utah Partnership for Education

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<u>GED in College Settings</u>	Yes	Classes available through adult and community education. Test is accepted at all state colleges; Utah Valley State offers a specific scholarship to GED students.	Yes	Students with disabilities	Yes	State funding; free GED program on TV
<b>High School Articulation Project</b>	Yes	Focused on alignment of math and composition curriculum with college entrance standards. The state just received a grant to include professional development and pre-service training.	No		Yes	State funding by both K-12 and Higher Education
<b>International Baccalaureate (IB)</b>	Yes	2 high schools participating; Will include elementary school in the future	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Racial and ethnic minority students</li> <li>Low-income students, one program is located in a financially disadvantaged area</li> </ul>	No	Consortium for Accelerated Learning Opportunities (WCALO) funding
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Attempts to lead students through both technical and academic training to a college degree as well as career	Yes	Special populations, but open to all students.	Yes	Federal Perkins funding

**Summary of academic pathways:**

Among the existing academic pathways, the primary emphasis has been on the concurrent enrollment program in which students can graduate from high school with college credit. Concurrent enrollment is highly supported by the political system as a way to introduce high school students to higher education. The High School Articulation Project has brought representatives from both higher education and K-12 together to discuss standards in composition and math so that students graduating from high school are adequately prepared to begin college level work. The state is also in collaboration with 9 other states to create more access to AP exams.

**Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:**

- Concurrent enrollment
- High School Articulation Project
- International Baccalaureate (IB)



**Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:**

Some of the academic pathways make special attempts to reach various traditionally underserved student populations, including low-income students and racial and ethnic minority students. The concurrent enrollment program is administered locally, and the specific sites determine which students are served. The WCALO program attempts to increase the access of low-income students for AP exams. The state also has set up an IB program within a low-income area.

**Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:**

Much of the funding for Utah’s academic pathway programs comes from the federal level.

**Lessons learned by state officials:**

- College faculty members meet once a year. Thirty academic disciplines meet to improve transfer and articulation among lower-to-upper division courses. They are cautious regarding concurrent enrollment. They question whether high school teachers can provide the same learning experience as a college classroom. They also question whether the same syllabus is used within the high school class. There is concern about the intellectual exchange. The faculty agreed to do better oversight of the concurrent enrollment program, indicating that high school faculty will be required to use the syllabi, text, and assessment that are used in college classroom.
- There is also concern that students select dual credit courses without thinking about their overall educational sequence and how the particular courses fit. Schools are beginning to educate students and parents about this issue.
- There is an effort to bring together faculty who teach developmental math and writing to identify the competencies needed to assure that students can not only take developmental courses but also succeed in regular college-level courses.
- There is a discussion about providing a first year scholarship of college for high school students who take rigorous curriculum.

**Programs recommended by state officials:**

No recommendations made by state officials

**State official’s contact information:**

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(Prepared by Christopher Evans/Eunyoung Kim Updated January, 2006/ \*State official reviewed this state profile.)