Core Themes

**Student Success**: UVU supports students in achieving their educational, professional, and personal goals.

*Satisfactory*. UVU satisfactorily supports students’ achievement and their subsequent success after graduation. Students indicate, in general, that they are having a meaningful university experience and employers are largely satisfied with our graduates’ preparation. The retention rate has significantly increased since 2004 but has plateaued and dipped in recent years. The graduation rate needs improvement.

**SS1**: UVU supports students’ preparation and achievement of academic success at the University.

*Unsatisfactory*. Student retention has risen since 2007 as the result of a number of initiatives designed to address this issue. Continued focus on retention is warranted as the rate appears to have reached a plateau. Graduation rates are lower than our peers and need improvement but we note that the number of degrees awarded has been increasing.

**SS2**: UVU provides a meaningful and well-rounded university experience.

*Satisfactory*. With no campus housing, student participation can be a challenge; however, the rate of participation has increased significantly in the last two years with the widest participation in special lectures, performance events, and club meetings. Student-faculty interaction outside of class is comparable to our peers but is an area where we would like to see further improvement.

**SS3**: UVU prepares students for success in their subsequent academic, professional and lifelong learning pursuits including serving as leaders, people of integrity and stewards of their communities.

*Satisfactory*. Graduates indicate that UVU has contributed positively to their personal and intellectual growth. Even during the economic downturn, a majority of graduates are employed full-time with an increasing portion pursuing additional education. Employers think highly of UVU graduates, an impression that has improved over the last seven years.

**Engaged**: UVU engages its communities in mutually beneficial collaboration and emphasizes engaged learning.

*Under Development*. Data is not yet available for the second objective as well as at least one measure for each of the other two objectives.
**E1**: UVU faculty and staff engage students using real-world contexts within the curriculum and activities outside the classroom to increase professional competence and confidence.

*Satisfactory*. Participation in enriching educational experiences increases from first-year students to seniors but we rate a little lower than our NSSE peer institutions. Service learning participation has seen a steady increase for several years.

**E2**: UVU fosters partnerships and outreach opportunities that enhance the regional, national, and global communities.

*Under Development*. Data is not yet available for this objective.

**E3**: UVU serves as a portal of civic engagement and an engine of regional economic and business development.

*Under Development*. Data is not yet available on business development. However, the results of the recent economic impact study show a tremendous return on investment. A large majority of graduates reside in Utah and most stay in Utah County.

**Inclusive**: UVU provides opportunity for individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives and meets regional educational needs.

*Satisfactory*. UVU satisfactorily serves students from a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Ethnically, UVU students are reasonably representative of the local population. Improvements are needed in participation rates of Hispanics and females. The overall campus climate, based on several indicators, is satisfactory and comparable to our peers. UVU strives to offer an array of desired programs at appropriate times and locations with a variety of delivery modes that meet student needs.

**I1**: UVU provides educational opportunity for a broad range of students.

*Satisfactory*. There remains a stable and relatively wide age distribution over the last few years. Regarding ethnicity, Hispanics are underrepresented when compared with the population in Utah County. However, this gap has been closing in recent years thanks to a major UVU initiative. Other ethnic minority populations, in total, exceed the percentage of the minority populations in the county. Regarding gender, there is concern with continued low representation by female students when compared with males.

**I2**: UVU provides an inviting, supportive environment and a balance of activities and services for people from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives.

*Satisfactory*. The overall campus climate based on several indicators is satisfactory and comparable to our peers. UVU was significantly lower than our
peers with respect to the employees’ perception of UVU placing sufficient emphasis on having a diverse faculty and staff, but was significantly higher with respect to the institutional policies and practices giving UVU employees the flexibility to manage work and life. Students’ perceptions of a supportive campus environment were comparable to peers for our seniors. However, freshmen perceptions were lower than peers in all but one category though the freshmen responses were similar to seniors overall.

I3: UVU offers an array of programs from certificates to masters, including non-credit programs, designed to reflect students’ goals and the region’s needs.

Satisfactory. Through a broad array of programs, UVU serves an increasing number of students who are pursuing bachelor’s degrees and a significant number pursuing certificates and associate degrees. Enrollment in the three master’s degree programs have increased. Three-fourths of non-returning students were satisfied or very satisfied with the degrees offered. Degrees required in the top ten occupations were well covered by UVU, in cooperation with MATC, with the exception of engineering.

I4: UVU utilizes a variety of schedules, locations, and delivery methods that best meet students’ needs.

Under Development. One-fourth of non-returning students indicate that course availability is at least a minor reason for not returning. More data is needed on our current students vs. non-returning students. The measures were not sufficient to make a judgment on meeting student needs.

Serious: UVU fosters a culture of academic rigor and professional excellence.

Satisfactory. UVU satisfactorily provides high quality programs and outstanding teaching in an academically rigorous environment. Community perception of UVU is increasingly positive. Students are experiencing academic challenge comparable to peers. Employee satisfaction compares favorably with peers and turnover is low. Several measures need additional data to aid assessment and inform future improvements.

S1: UVU champions learning through outstanding teaching in an academically rigorous environment.

Satisfactory. UVU performs adequately compared to peers in student assessment of active and collaborative learning techniques and level of academic challenge. Student testing positively reflects UVU’s contribution to improvement in critical thinking and writing. Evaluation of instruction data is not yet available.

S2: UVU supports a culture of scholarship and creative work and promotes accomplishment in cultural, academic, and co-curricular/extramural endeavors.
Under Development. Data specific to these indicators is yet to be developed.

S3: UVU attracts, develops, and retains high achieving students and highly qualified faculty, staff, and administrators.

Under Development. Survey data indicates employee satisfaction is comparable to similar institutions and employee turnover rates are low. However, faculty and staff qualifications data and measures pertaining to high achieving students are incomplete.

S4: UVU is recognized for high quality, efficient, and effective programs and services.

Satisfactory. Community perception of UVU’s quality is on a strong upward trend. The majority of Utah residents and a strong majority of Utah County residents would be likely or very likely to endorse or attend UVU. A significant number of UVU programs and services have received specialized accreditations.

Administrative Imperatives

Operate Effectively: UVU utilizes best practices and transparent processes to continuously improve and responsibly use resources.

Excellent. UVU’s planning, budgeting and accountability process exemplifies a best practice of transparent and strategic resource allocation and continuous planning. Assessment occurs at the university-level and throughout the institution with a project underway to better organize these efforts.

OE1: UVU fosters a culture of planning, assessment, improvement and accountability.

Satisfactory. UVU satisfactorily demonstrates a culture of planning, assessment, improvement and accountability. Employee opinions are positive and exceed our peers. A centralized tool for tracking and reporting existing planning and assessment activities has been introduced and implementation has begun.

OE2: UVU strategically allocates resources to achieve institutional objectives.

Excellent. UVU does an excellent job of allocating resources in support of its mission.

OE3: UVU utilizes transparent and collaborative decision-making processes.

Excellent. Employee opinions are positive with ratings that exceed institutional peers in every category and are overall on par with Carnegie peers.
Manage Growth: UVU anticipates and appropriately responds to the region's higher education needs.

Under Development. Measures need to be improved before making a judgment.

MG1: UVU anticipates and plans for future regional educational needs.

Satisfactory. The indicators document our ability to anticipate future enrollment and enrollment models have provided a relatively accurate picture. A number of university initiatives and plans are evidence of planning for that future enrollment.

MG2: UVU adapts to meet student and community needs consistent with its educational mission.

Under Development. Existing measures do not adequately describe this objective.

Secure Resources: UVU seeks and obtains public and private resources to fulfill its mission.

Satisfactory. UVU does a satisfactory job securing resources to fulfill its mission. Recent successes include our ability to communicate effectively and receive state funds for top priority projects. In addition, UVU’s tuition and fees are appropriate for its university standing within the USHE system. University development and fundraising efforts are improving and more effective measures for communicating these changes are under development.

SR1: UVU communicates its resource requirements and secures appropriate state tax fund support to fulfill its role within the Utah System of Higher Education.

Satisfactory. UVU has been highly effective under the current administration in securing state tax funds, particularly in obtaining funding for its highest legislative priorities. However, state tax fund support and space lag behind peers and other USHE institutions.

SR2: UVU establishes tuition and fees consistent with the economic environment and its mission.

Satisfactory. UVU tuition and fee structure consistent with its role within the Utah System of Higher Education and is low compared with peers.

SR3: UVU strategically pursues and acquires private and public resources beyond state appropriations.
Satisfactory. Recent private and public resource acquisitions provide needed funding for institutional initiatives. Cash contributions and new pledges are both trending upward.