

## Standard 4: Strategic Planning

### Introduction

Southwest Technical College (Southwest Tech) is one of eight colleges within the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). While USHE engages in statewide planning, each college in the system develops its own strategic plan to address the specific needs and circumstances in its assigned geographic region.

The overall direction and organizational development of Southwest Tech is determined by the College's Board of Trustees. The Southwest Tech Board of Trustees functions as the institutional advisory committee.

Southwest Tech administration and the Board of Trustees regularly reviews the institution's progress toward achieving objectives, and the strategic plan has been revisited and revised as deemed necessary. The plan is intended to be a dynamic document, helping guide development of the College in an ever-changing environment.

In 2024, President Wood led the cabinet and management team in discussions about updating the institution's mission. These meetings solicited input from various faculty, staff, and administrators at the College. In 2025, Southwest Tech administration used feedback from these meetings to update its strategic plan and take the new mission to its Board of Trustees and State Board of Higher Education for approval.

Following a management retreat in 2025, the College updated its Strategic Plan with additional strategies to achieve its objectives. The current strategic plan focuses on three primary objectives aimed at increasing the college-going rate among high school graduates, increasing the number of students who graduate in a timely manner, and increasing graduation in high-wage, high-demand programs. These goals align with statewide performance funding initiatives in [Utah Code 53B-7-706](#).

### Analysis

#### 1. The institution has a written strategic plan.

Southwest Technical College has a strategic plan that is available on the College's employee hub. The current strategic plan includes the following components: mission and vision statement, strategic objectives for three years, action plans for achieving the strategic objectives, budget calculations for financially supporting the strategic objectives, and evaluative criteria for confirming the accomplishment of the strategic objectives.

**The institution's written strategic plan includes, at a minimum, the following components:**

#### 2. The mission of the institution.