

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission

Statutory Authority:

The Commission's purposes, powers, and duties were established and are defined by Article VII, Section 14, of the Constitution of Nebraska and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act, §§85-1401 et seq. Nebraska Revised Statute (Reissue 1994). The main purpose of the Commission, as described in Section 85-1403, is the coordination of public postsecondary education institutions in Nebraska to reduce unnecessary duplication of programs and facilities. The Commission has a complete set of rules and regulations on file with the Secretary of State.

Vision Statement:

The Commission promotes cooperation and collaboration among Nebraska's postsecondary institutions. The Commission is a partner with the higher education community, the executive branch, and the legislative branch in identifying and meeting educational needs of the state. The Commission will foster changes and improvements in higher education on a continual basis while avoiding unnecessary duplication. It will strive to increase higher education's capacity to change, ensure affordability, and foster accountability, productivity, and efficiency leading to long-term viability.

Mission Statement:

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education is a constitutional agency that coordinates the state's public postsecondary institutions. The purposes of the Coordinating Commission are: 1) to develop an ongoing comprehensive statewide plan for the operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of public postsecondary education; 2) to identify and enact policies to meet the educational, research, and public service needs of the state; 3) to effect the best use of available resources through the elimination of unnecessary programs and facilities among Nebraska's public institutions.

Goals:

The primary constitutional and statutory goals and responsibilities of the Commission include:

1. Review and update a comprehensive statewide plan for a coordinated approach to a system of public postsecondary education in Nebraska.
2. Review and approve new and existing instructional programs and new private or out-of-state institutions.
3. Review and modify budget requests of public institutions and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.
4. Review and approve proposed capital construction projects of public institutions and prioritize approved projects.
5. Collect and provide data and factual information about public postsecondary institutions.
6. Administer the student financial aid programs.
7. Administer the Improving Teacher Quality program (formerly Eisenhower Professional Development Program).

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	8,133,119	6,994,969	7,516,583	8,010,466	7,986,938	8,046,772
Cash Fund	2,539,017	4,760,000	4,760,000	4,760,127	6,010,000	6,010,377
Federal Fund	1,072,312	997,944	1,037,944	1,041,900	1,037,944	1,046,619
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	402,095	275,000	275,000	175,000	175,000
Total Agency	11,744,448	13,155,008	13,589,527	14,087,493	15,209,882	15,278,768

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 297 - Education Grant Program

Program Objectives:

Program 297, formerly Math/Science, has been renamed Education Grants Programs. Program 297 is the umbrella program for Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ), FutureForce Nebraska® (FFN), and State Scholars Initiative (SSI). The Commission became the fiscal agent for FFN and SSI within the past year.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	498,964	400,213	440,213	444,087	440,213	448,650
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	402,095	275,000	275,000	175,000	175,000
Total	498,964	802,308	715,213	719,087	615,213	623,650

Performance Measures:

Improving Teacher Quality

Thirteen performance measures have been designated to evaluate the Improving Teacher Quality program. These include the number of in-service projected funded, the number of teachers participating, and the number of local educational agencies involved in the process.

FutureForce Nebraska® and State Scholars Initiative

The Commission's responsibilities for FFN and SSI are limited to serving as the fiscal agent and do not extend to performance. The Commission gathers authorized expenses and submits those to other agencies for reimbursement.

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission

Program 640 - Administration

Program Objectives:

Program 640 (Administration) contains the majority of the Commission's responsibilities. In performance of its responsibilities, the Commission will

1. fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities to the state of Nebraska,
2. foster cooperation and collaboration with the postsecondary education institutions and K-12 education throughout the state,
3. promote efficiency and accountability among the institutions to affect best use of available resources through elimination of unnecessary duplication,
4. identify and develop policies to meet the postsecondary educational, research, and public service needs of the state, and
5. serve as an advocate for postsecondary education in Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	1,194,054	1,228,154	1,329,318	1,243,651	1,348,573	1,279,957
Cash Fund	1,392	10,000	10,000	10,127	10,000	10,377
Federal Fund	0	6,000	6,000	6,082	6,000	6,238
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,195,446	1,244,154	1,345,318	1,259,860	1,364,573	1,296,572

Performance Measures:

The Commission has established some measures of its performance, which include gathering data from sources outside the Commission in its efforts to provide reports on others' performance.

1. Review each institution's progress in compliance with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan including specific indicators identified by the institutions as their unique goals for meeting their role and missions.
2. Examine and report on enrollment and graduation percentages of students by ethnicity, as compared with Nebraska population demographics.
3. Gather and report on tuition as compared with peer institutions, examining tuition rate as a percent of total revenues and as related to percent of disposable and per capita income.
4. Request and report on number of off-campus courses delivered by information technologies and the uses of instructional technology utilized by each institution.
5. Request and report on cooperation and sharing of courses such as number of articulated programs, team teaching, joint curricula, number of 2+2 programs, and number of collaborative courses and enrollments.

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 690 - Nebraska Scholarship Program

Program Objectives:

Under Program 690, grants are provided to the state's financially-neediest students at all eligible public, private, and private career postsecondary institutions. The Commission requests an increase for each year of the 2007-2009 biennium to move Nebraska closer to the midpoint of the states offering need-based financial aid. As of the 2004-05 academic year, when comparing need-based undergraduate grant dollars to undergraduate full-time equivalency enrollment, Nebraska ranked 37th in the country.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	6,917,065	5,717,065	6,137,265	6,717,065	6,588,365	6,717,065
Cash Fund	2,537,625	4,750,000	4,750,000	4,750,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
Federal Fund	573,348	591,731	591,731	591,731	591,731	591,731
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10,028,038	11,058,796	11,478,996	12,058,796	13,180,096	13,308,796

Performance Measures:

Increase financial aid funding each year of the biennium.

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 691 - Community Scholarship Fd Program

Program Objectives:

Program 691 is the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act. Under this program matching grants are awarded as an incentive to Nebraska community foundations to raise money and award scholarships to residents who wish to pursue postsecondary education. The program encourages local foundations to generate local dollars to match funding provided by the state. The Commission requests an increase for each year of the 2007-2009 biennium.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	22,000	49,750	50,000	49,750	50,000	49,750
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22,000	49,750	50,000	49,750	50,000	49,750

Performance Measures:

1. Maintain funding for up to 25 matching grants.
2. Allow for the transfer of unused funds back to Program 690.