

Performance-Based Funding Council Hearing

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Dr. Tracy Langkilde, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

The Pennsylvania State University

Good morning, Leader Topper and members of the Council. I'm Tracy Langkilde, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost. I'm pleased to be here today to discuss Penn State education outcomes and job placement rates, student progression, and completion outcomes. I'll also provide an update on our ongoing Academic Portfolio and Program Review.

As you heard from Dr. Sara Thorndike earlier, Penn State is interested in a performance-based funding formula that considers a variety of metrics that focus on input, throughput, and output. We believe this approach meets several goals, including painting a fuller picture of how successfully institutions support students from day one of their college careers, through course and degree completion, to successful post-graduation outcomes that align with the workforce development needs of the Commonwealth.

I've included with my testimony a copy of Penn State's Fall Enrollment Summary and Penn State's Accountability Report, both highlighting several key data points and metrics being discussed by the Council. I'll begin by summarizing a few trends from both reports.

Enrollment Highlights

- In 2024, the University experienced a slight increase in total enrollment over 2023, driven by growth in undergraduate, University Park, College of Medicine, and World Campus students, while enrollment for graduate students and those at Commonwealth Campuses declined (Table 1, Enrollment Summary).
- Regarding diversity, enrollment trends for underrepresented minority students and underrepresented minority transfer students showed growth over the previous year, while the international student population experienced a decline. First-generation undergraduate students also saw increases (Table 2, Enrollment Summary).
- Notably, the incoming in-state student population for Fall 2024 includes students from every county in Pennsylvania, reflecting our commitment to statewide accessibility and representation.

Student Progression and Completion Outcomes

- Overall, 1-year retention for all students (first to second year from 2023 to 2024), and 4-year and 6-year graduation rates (since the 2020 and 2018 starting cohorts, respectively), have improved over the previous year (Table 6, Enrollment Summary).
- Graduation rates for underrepresented minority students, Pell recipients, and first-generation students have also increased for both the 4- and 6-year graduation timeframes.

- Approximately 42 percent of Penn State bachelor's and graduate degrees awarded are in high-demand STEM-related fields, holding steady at around the same rate for the past five years.

Post-Secondary Outcomes

For an in-depth look at post-secondary outcomes for Penn State graduates, I encourage you to explore the [We Earn Data](#) website, where we house data received from the Census Bureau and PA Department of Labor and Industry to provide a look at long-term graduate earnings 1 year, 5 years, and 10 years after graduation (between 2001 and 2022).

We Earn data can be sorted by campus, college, program level, and program of study.

- For bachelor's degree students, data shows that one-year out median earnings are \$42,019 for 110,123 alumni in PA across all locations, and by 10 years out, the median earnings are \$76,429.

It is also noteworthy that nearly 20% of Penn State's out-of-state and international students choose to stay in Pennsylvania after completing their degrees. With more than 400,000 Penn State alumni living and working in Pennsylvania, our graduates start companies, enrich established businesses, and contribute to their communities as taxpayers, volunteers, and citizens.

Academic Portfolio and Program Review

And finally, I want to update the Council on a significant initiative that began in 2024. Penn State is engaging in a university-wide academic portfolio and program review (APPR) of the portfolio of all academic programs across our campuses. APPR aims to build upon our strengths and provide data to ensure that our comprehensive academic portfolio meets the University's educational mission and aligns with student demand and workforce needs, and Penn State's research strengths and priorities.

This comprehensive, University-wide review focuses on three main areas:

1. Portfolio and program review: We're evaluating the broad portfolio of our academic programs across all of our locations to understand: a) how our existing programs meet both student interest and workforce demands, b) provide insight into future workforce needs across the Commonwealth so that we can proactively prepare students to fill these credential gaps, and c) that we take a University-wide approach to assessing current and future offerings to maximize Penn State's impact and mission across the Commonwealth and beyond.
2. Current and future market opportunities: We're establishing a dashboard to provide ongoing access to updated data on student demand and workforce needs, to allow continuous evaluation of existing and future academic programs.
3. Process and criteria for continuous review: We will develop a process of ongoing portfolio and program review to ensure that our academic offerings remain aligned with the Commonwealth's workforce needs and that we continue to be positioned to prepare our students for success in tomorrow's workforce.

Penn State enrolls 87,995 students, of which more than 51,000 are Pennsylvania residents, 13,926 are underrepresented minority students, 19,095 are first-generation students, and 18,359 are Pell Grant recipients. We remain committed to doing our part to capitalize on our strengths and align our academic portfolio with student demand, and workforce development needs across the Commonwealth.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.