



# DIRECT INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS PER DEGREE

HIGHER EDUCATION  
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ISSUE BRIEF

## **SUMMARY**

Over the past few years, the Legislature has tried to determine costs as they relate to the number and type of degrees awarded by the USHE institutions. Using cost data from the Commissioner's Office, an attempt is made to show the costs for each of eight clusters of degrees.

## **OBJECTIVE**

This Issue Brief is to provide Legislators with additional cost data.

## **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Data is collected from the USHE institutions showing cost information grouped by clusters of study. There are six clusters as follows:

- Business, Education, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Physical Education
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Agriculture and Natural Sciences
- Allied Health Professions
- Engineering and Architecture
- Trades and Technology

In each of the clusters, at each institution, the number of FTE students at the various instructional levels is multiplied by the corresponding Expenditure per FTE. This figure is then divided by the number of corresponding degrees awarded at each institution to arrive at an average Total Direct Appropriated Instructional Cost per Award.

It should be noted that this view takes all of the direct instructional costs and divides those costs into the number of degrees awarded. It does not account for non-completers. So while the costs of non-completers are accounted for in the numerator of the equation, there is no corresponding number in the denominator.

Costs per degree vary widely between institutions, from cluster to cluster, and even within the same cluster.

