

UNLV | FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNLV'S BUDGET

HOW MUCH HAS UNLV LOST SINCE THE RECESSION HIT?

UNLV has already lost approximately \$50 million in state funding since 2007. The governor's budget for the next two fiscal years proposes to cut an additional \$47.5 million from UNLV's current state appropriation – a 27 percent reduction in dollars UNLV is receiving from the state. If the proposed budget is implemented, UNLV will experience a cumulative loss in state funding of just under \$100 million by 2013.

HOW MANY POSITIONS HAVE BEEN LOST AT UNLV SO FAR?

UNLV is down more than 540 positions. This number includes layoffs, voluntary separations, retirements, and unfilled vacancies.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT ON UNLV STUDENTS SO FAR?

Right now UNLV offers approximately 1,000 fewer sections than it did in pre-recession days, primarily because of the reduction of faculty and instructors (our part-time instructor budget has already been reduced by 25 percent). Remaining faculty members have increased their workloads and class sizes so students can progress to graduation. Some students, however, may find it difficult to find open sections of required classes, so it may take longer for them to graduate.

HOW COULD PROPOSED CUTS AFFECT UNLV?

If the governor's proposed cuts are implemented, we estimate eliminating 33 degree programs and losing more than 300 employees. Beyond the damage to the university's structure is the reality that UNLV would become a very different institution, unable to serve as many students or meet the needs of the state.

WHAT IS UNLV'S CURRENT STATE APPROPRIATION?

For fiscal year 2011, UNLV's current state appropriation is \$172.4 million.

HOW MUCH HAS THE GOVERNOR PROPOSED TO CUT THE STATE'S APPROPRIATION FOR FY12 AND FY 13?

In Governor Sandoval's budget proposal, UNLV will receive \$124.9 million. This is a cut of \$47.5 million over the next two years.

HOW DOES A CUT IN STATE APPROPRIATIONS AFFECT UNLV'S TOTAL BUDGET?

The impact of this cut is devastating because state-appropriated funds and tuition and fees combine to make up more than half of UNLV's total budget (state general fund—34 percent, tuition and fees—17 percent). The remaining 49 percent of UNLV's other revenue streams are restricted funds like federal financial aid, research grants and contracts, restricted gifts, residence hall operations, and self-funded activities that cannot be reallocated to other expenses.

WHAT IS UNLV'S AND NEVADA'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher education is not just a budget item—it is an investment. Including multiplier effects, UNLV contributed \$1.15 billion in economic activity in Southern Nevada during 2009. For every dollar of state appropriation funds, the university generates \$5.80 in local economic activity. In addition, according to a white paper focusing on economic growth and development in Nevada, individuals with higher levels of education consistently earn more and are more likely than others to remain employed during economic downturns. Nevada residents who have graduated from college generate higher tax collections for the state and have a much lower demand for public services and assistance. Future growth opportunities identified as crucial for Nevada — business clusters such as health, homeland security, information and communication technology, life sciences, sustainable energy technologies, and regional headquarters development — require a skilled work force. Nevada ranks 46 out of 50 states for college education attainment. Nevada needs more college graduates. Higher education is the critical foundation for improving the state's human capital to support future development.

FACTS & STATS

President: Neal Smatresk
Founded: 1957
Web address: www.unlv.edu

COLLEGES/DIVISIONS

Business	Education
Engineering	Fine Arts
Graduate	Health Sciences
Honors	Hotel Administration
Liberal Arts	Sciences
Urban Affairs	Student Affairs
Academic Success Center	
Educational Outreach	

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Law	Dental Medicine
-----	-----------------

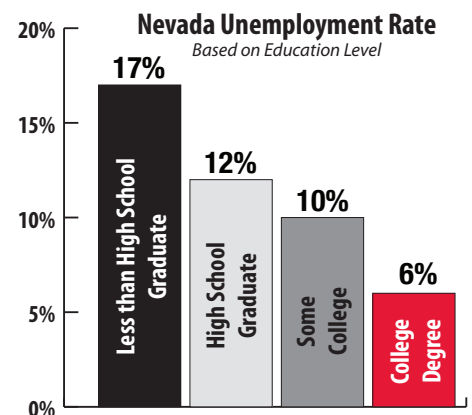
STUDENTS

Total Headcount: 28,203
 Graduate/Professional: 5,684 (20%)



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES A COLLEGE DEGREE MAKE?

Over the course of a lifetime, people with college degrees earn about \$1 million more than those with a high school degree. A college degree is no guarantee against unemployment, but consider the unemployment statistics in the chart below.*



*According to the national 2009 American Community Survey

You can help UNLV by contacting your legislators and governor. Visit go.unlv.edu/ambassadors

CAN UNLV INCREASE TUITION AND FEES?

Yes, increasing tuition and fees will be part of the solution to UNLV's budget problem, but keep in mind that tuition and fees have already gone up dramatically in the last four years. When comparing Spring 2007 to the current Spring 2011 semester, undergraduate registration fees have increased 53.7 percent, and graduate registration fees have increased 63.3 percent. While tuition and fees will have to go up in the future, we are approaching the point of diminishing returns.

WILL INCREASING TUITION MAKE UP FOR LOST STATE FUNDING?

Tuition increases cannot fill the entire gap. We estimate UNLV will need to increase tuition by 10 percent a year for the next two years to partially make up for the loss of so much state funding. We are requesting that the Legislature change the funding formula. UNLV needs to retain all the tuition and fees it collects so we can assure our students that what they pay will support their education on the UNLV campus. We know that tuition increases pose a real hardship for many UNLV students and can affect their ability to stay in school and graduate. Our nontraditional student body, which includes many students who are putting themselves through the university and are the first generation of their family to attend college, may no longer be able to afford UNLV if tuition goes up too much more.

HOW DO UNLV'S TUITION AND FEES COMPARE TO OTHER PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN OUR REGION?

UNLV's out-of-state tuition is higher than the regional average, and this can decrease out-of-state enrollment. While UNLV's fees for Nevada residents are below the average for similar institutions in the West, our financial aid availability in Nevada is much lower than at peer institutions. Consequently, the net out-of-pocket cost to UNLV students and their families is high by comparison.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST STUDENTS TO ATTEND UNLV ANNUALLY?

Nevada students pay registration and other mandatory fees: * **\$5,689**

Out-of-state students pay tuition plus registration and other mandatory fees: * **\$18,755**

*Based on a course load of 15 credits each semester.

WHY DOES LAS VEGAS NEED UNLV?

There are so many reasons. First and foremost we offer opportunity — the education that transforms people's lives and maximizes their potential. We produce the educated work force Las Vegas so desperately needs for its future success. We are an engine for economic development and diversification. We generate significant economic impact for our metropolitan area. Our research helps harness business opportunities and tackles the problems our community faces. We improve the quality of life in our community and foster a creative environment in a city constantly reinventing itself. There is no successful large, urban area in the country that does not have a healthy and productive research university supporting it.

WHAT HAS UNLV DONE TO REDUCE SPENDING, REFORM ITSELF, AND BECOME MORE EFFICIENT?

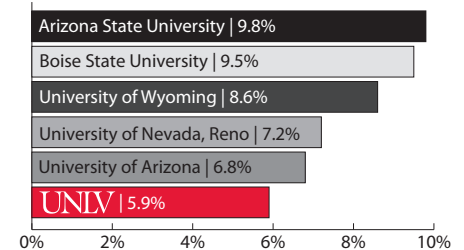
Even before the current budget crisis, UNLV moved aggressively to streamline its operations. UNLV has documented more than \$12 million dollars in utility cost savings by converting to water-smart landscaping (reducing overall water use by 45 percent) and conserving energy in the last decade. In fact, UNLV has done such an outstanding job lowering its operating and maintenance expenses that it has won national and state awards for its efficiency. In just the last year, UNLV has reduced expenses for goods and services by \$3.2 million through various belt-tightening measures and negotiating new contracts. We are improving how we teach large classes and re-educating our faculty to improve student learning. UNLV has steadily improved its freshman retention rate the last few years and expects to exceed 80 percent this year. Finally, with the loss of so many positions on top of already low staffing levels, our administrative staff is one of the leanest in the country. In fact, UNLV is in the bottom five nationally in administrative spending.

WHY CAN'T UNLV USE THE MONEY IT RAISES TO FILL THE BUDGET GAP?

UNLV is fortunate to have so many generous friends and alumni who donate money to the university. Most donors specify how they want this money spent. UNLV must honor stated donor preferences and cannot reallocate money for other expenses. In addition, not all donations immediately translate into cash income. Some are pledges that will be paid over several years, some may not come to a university until an estate is settled, and some need to be allocated for endowments.



PERCENTAGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF COMPARED WITH PEER INSTITUTIONS*



UNLV is very lean administratively. Among its regional peers, UNLV has the lowest percentage — only 5.9 percent of its total budget — allotted to administrative support staff.

**Figures are from FY09. Administrative support staff has been reduced even more during the last two years, with more cuts projected in FY12 and FY13.*