



TOP TIER 2.0

UNLV'S STRATEGIC PLAN
PROGRESS UPDATE – FY22

11.01.2022

DATA OVERVIEW SUMMARY – FY22

[Top Tier 2.0](#) was officially approved by the NSHE Board of Regents in March 2022 and provides our path forward through this decade. While it is rooted in our original Top Tier strategic plan, there has been expansion to include graduate/professional student success; social justice, equity, and inclusion; and creating stand-alone areas for socio-economic development and philanthropy and alumni engagement. Newly aligned strategic objectives and critical task have been identified, and metrics have been identified and projected out to help monitor our progress and provide an indicator of the overall health and vitality of the institution.

The onset of the pandemic in March 2020 did not show much effect on FY20 data regularly reviewed in alignment with the Top Tier strategic plan; however, as the pandemic continued through FY21, it has not only had a significant impact on our operations, but is reflected in several metrics for Top Tier. These effects were less, but continued, in FY22. UNLV continues to make progress despite some setbacks.

Student Achievement is focused on students who come to UNLV with the expectation that the time they spend here will help improve their life after they leave. Students are valued and the university community considers their success our mission. UNLV recruits, retains, and graduates a diverse body of students through innovative learning experiences, access to mentoring and research opportunities, and opportunities to engage with the vibrant campus community. The majority of student outcomes demonstrated improvement over the previous year, although some fell short of their annual goals. While retention has been increasing prior to the pandemic, it does remain close to the previous academic year, decreasing slightly from 77.4% to 76.9%; however, 4-year graduation rate reached a new high at 26.4% and 6-year graduation rate remained steady at 47.1%. The gap for our student to advisor ratio has been reduced significantly from 493:1 to 384:1 and we are on-track to meet our 2023 goal of 350:1. Master's enrollment is down about 6%, but doctoral enrollment increased by 40 students, or 12%. Overall, graduate FTE demonstrated a slight increase. Our work around career readiness has been promising. The number of employers engaged with UNLV increased 24% over the past from 4,769 to 5,930. Increased engagement is also evident through jobs and internships posted on Handshake (electronic platform), which in the past year have doubled, going from 47,733 to 94,345.

Research is critical to the institution as part of our mission around learning and discovery. Our environment fosters a climate of innovation and excellence in research, with multiple interdisciplinary opportunities, especially those opportunities that capitalize on specific aspects that make us unique and further support scholarly and creative activity. Doctoral degrees, both research and professional practices, continue to again be strong. We had a record high in research doctorates with 217 degrees conferred, surpassing our goal by 18 degrees. Of these research doctorates, the category of Social Sciences decreased by three degrees; the categories of Humanities, STEM, and Other all increased. 274 professional practice doctorates were conferred, exceeding the goal by 10. As the world continues to recover from the pandemic, we anticipate that creative activities will regain their momentum and we will see more juried exhibitions, creative activities, and graduate student publications, presentations, posters, and artistic and creative activities as these areas are improving from last fiscal year, but have not yet returned to pre-pandemic performance levels.

Research expenditures had a setback of 5% from \$105.8M to \$101M. However, there are areas within research and scholarship continued to advance. Research dollars awarded were at the second highest level in eight years, and proposals increased again to their highest level in more than 8 years, increase 16% from \$408M to \$475M in the past year. The number of GAs increased from 990 to 1,046, exceeding our goal; however, 67% of GAs are state funded while only 15% are grant-funded. UNLV continues to be overly reliant on state funded GAs and more needed to be funded through external grants. Non-faculty researchers and postdocs are important to a

research university. While the trend had demonstrated substantial decreases with postdocs, further efforts have help stabilize.

Socio-Economic Development is essential to the continued growth, evolution, and diversification of our region and state, and UNLV has long been a key player in the economic development of our region. Efforts include all businesses and industries, including those that identify as disadvantaged, women-owned, and STEAM-related. Because the university receives direct support from the state, the local community continues to rely upon UNLV to develop productive partnerships and collaborations that affirm its ongoing investment. Three patents were issued during the past year, with 14 applications filed; our patents issued goal remains at eight for 2023. The Small Business Development Center at UNLV indicated that new business starts increased from 33 to 50, similar to numbers reported prior to the pandemic. Jobs created continued to be robust with 2,116 report, and 930 new businesses served, both of which are increases over prepandemic levels of performance. New metrics indicated 41 faculty engagements and 685 student engagements. There were no startups in the tech sector during the past year.

UNLV Academic Health will create a healthier Nevada by caring for our communities and driving the future of healthcare; it will transform the way that care is delivered in Southern Nevada. While providing high-quality care for our community, this core area will expand the research portfolio of the university and be an economic engine, diversifying our economy by creating high-paying jobs, future healthcare workforce for our community, and a biotechnology industry. While the total number of dental visits was down by 4.5%, or 2,551 visits, patient satisfaction with dental services remained high at 95%. Patient visits at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine were relatively flat with only a slight decrease of less than 1%, or 1,436 visits. The second cohort of 55 medical students graduated in May. Mental and behavioral health services through the PRACTICE and CICFC increased again this year and exceeded their goal. In addition, the Student Wellness reported that retention for students who utilized CAPS services was 83%. The number of health-related degrees conferred at the undergraduate level increased 4% from 612 to 637 and at the graduate level decreased slightly by 13 degrees, or 3.7%.

Community Partnerships have a positive long-term impact on our local communities. UNLV leverages resources for the public good to advance the university and the communities it serves. The value of the university is demonstrated through collaboration and engagement with the community to provide expertise, service, and support. 7,058 UNLV students participated in service to the community, with 164,610 hours completed. In addition, student athletes completed 2,651 hours of service and held nine K-12 community engagement events, one being Nevada Reading Week. 138 youth summer and K-12 spring break camps at UNLV were offered through the College of Education, furthering opportunities to engage our community youth meaningfully at UNLV. The UNLV Food Pantry had 505 client visits with 1,020 individuals served. Cultural, athletic, and event attendance increased significantly when compared to FY21, but numbers from the past year are around 300,000 fewer visitors than our prepandemic high of slightly over 1M. The UNLV News Center page views exceed their goal with 1.2 million page views. Followers, engagement, and reach on social media climbed from 7.8M to 8M.

A new core area of Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion will allow more actionable items to help address our culture on campus. A more diverse environment can lead to better innovation, problem solving, and growth; this type of environment is fostered through assessing and developing the conditions necessary for culture improvement. The [2022 Great Colleges to Work For survey results](#) were basically flat. Job satisfaction and support, along with professional development both indicated a slight increase; however, several areas indicated a slight decrease in scores compared to 2019. These metrics, along with metrics from student surveys shows that we must create and maintain supportive environments for all students and employ faculty and staff who are more reflective of the demographics of the student population. In addition, disaggregation of data around promotion and tenures is being conducted to help provide further insights involving underrepresented faculty. At

the end of 2021, 58% of faculty were retained: 50% Hispanic/Latino; 57% Asian; 100% Black or African American; 95% White; 33% two or more races, and 15% unknown race/ethnicity.

Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement efforts deepen the culture of philanthropy and alumni connection for the university as it moves forward. Engaging alumni does not start upon graduation but must begin from the time the student enrolls at UNLV. Such engagement is crucial to developing alumni who understand the importance of supporting the university through their time, talent, and resources. Philanthropy is an area that can help ensure financial sustainability. During the past fiscal year, gifts and pledges increased from \$39M to 51.8M, and the total number of volunteers, a key indicator of engagement, increased from 3,184 to 3,392. The endowment decreased from \$310M to \$290M, reflective of the markets during the first half of the year.

A strong infrastructure and a healthy model of shared governance are essential to the university's goals and mission fulfillment. Overall satisfaction with campus services increased from 3.25 to 3.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Aggregated scores regarding employees feeling respected and appreciated, as well as communitarians from leadership, indicated increased performance.

UNLV has been designated an R1 institution for "very high research activity" by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (CCIHE) since 2018. Of approximately 4,000 institutions nationwide, UNLV is one of approximately 146 with this distinction. In addition, UNLV holds the Carnegie Foundation's national elective community engagement classification. Both designations are the gold standard for university metrics. Maintaining these distinctions continues to be a component of the Top Tier 2.0 Strategic Plan, but these are not the end goal. It takes all core area areas functioning independently and collaboratively – in conjunction with all units across campus - in order for us to fulfill our mission and reach our vision as we improve the lives of diverse students and transforming our communities through education and engagement.

While this summary provides broad highlights to overall progress, it doesn't not encapsulate all metrics, which are available on the Top Tier 2.0 website.

- [Key Metrics](#)
- [Student Achievement](#)
- [Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity](#)
- [UNLV Academic Health Center](#)
- [Socio-Economic Development](#)
- [Social Justice, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [Community Partnerships](#)
- [Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement](#)
- [Infrastructure and Shared Governance](#)