

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



FEBRUARY 2026

abhe.org | 407-207-0808 | info@abhe.org



Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:2,7

Our theme for this year leading up to our 79th Annual Meeting is – **A Time to Lead**. The book of Joshua opens at a hinge moment in the life of God's people. Moses is gone. The future is uncertain. The land ahead is contested. And into that moment of transition and risk, God does not speak words of retreat or preservation—but of leadership accompanied by His presence. Now then, He says, you and all these people, **get ready**.

Biblical and Christian higher education faces real and mounting pressures. Cultural skepticism, financial strain, and regulatory challenges exist within a broader environment where the public is asking hard questions of higher education about value, relevance, and trust. And yet Scripture reminds us that seasons of greatest uncertainty are often the very moments when God calls leaders to arise with clarity, conviction, courage, and godly character.

This is our time to lead, not merely to manage institutions, but to steward and fulfill a mission. Not simply to endure change, but to faithfully shape the future according to God's vision and by his grace. It is also a time to invest deeply in those who

will follow us. Like Joshua, the next generation of leaders must be prepared to lead in contested spaces—grounded in truth, formed by wisdom, strengthened by faith, and filled by his presence.

As we gather for ABHE's 79th Annual Meeting, we do so not in fear but in expectancy. I firmly believing that God is at work through faithful leadership in biblical and Christian higher education. The calling before us is demanding, but it is also clear. This is our moment and our responsibility. And by God's grace, this is our time to lead!

I am pleased to report once again that the movement of biblical higher education continues to be strong. With 165 institutions enrolling 86,639 students this past year, God's hand is evident in biblical higher education.

One year into our three-year Leading Higher Capital Campaign, I am pleased to report we've raised over \$1.5 million in cash and commitments. In this report, I'll highlight the ways we are already delivering on the campaign projects.

THANK YOU for answering the call that God has placed on your life to serve Him in biblical higher education. As you review this President's Report, join me in praising God for His hand of blessing!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip E. Dearborn".

Philip E. Dearborn, Ed.D.
President



The ABHE Team

ABHE Board of Directors and the Commission on Accreditation

Both the ABHE Board of Directors and the Commission on Accreditation work hard to represent our membership and sector of higher education. Dr. Bill Blocker chairs the Board of Directors and Dr. Jena Dunn chairs the Commission on Accreditation. Together they, along with fellow board and commission members, spend countless hours leading ABHE forward.



Team ABHE

We added two new employees to Team ABHE this year. This fall, we welcomed Jazmine Grafton as our first-ever Marketing and Communications Director. Jazmine relocated to Orlando in September and is already providing strong leadership and direction in how and what we communicate. Then in December, we welcomed Eric Brandt as our Leadership Academy Director. Eric brings deep experience in digital learning and is building our brand-new Leadership Academy — a powerful online platform that will expand professional development access for leaders and faculty across ABHE.





Number Update

Thanks to the generosity of so many people and institutions, I am pleased to report one year into our three-year Capital Campaign the following numbers:

\$746,624 Total Gifts Received

\$825,872 Total Outstanding Pledges

\$1,572,496 Total Gifts & Pledges

Case Statement

Driving the Campaign is the following case statement:

Rising ... to the cultural challenges of our day

Raising ... up godly leaders for flourishing institutions

Resourcing ... leaders for professional development with excellence

Rising ...

to the cultural challenge of our day with a resolute commitment to the biblical beliefs and practices of historic Christianity. Our institutions offer robust programs of post-secondary education thoroughly grounded in the Word of God with a passionate pursuit of student transformation toward a Christ-centered life on mission with God regardless of vocational calling.

Raising ...

up godly leaders for a growing network of flourishing institutions. Strong institutions are served by leaders who understand the times and know what should be done. Well-equipped for their respective roles and responsibilities, they lead with Christ-like humility and exemplary service.

Resourcing ...

leaders for professional excellence. As a new generation of leaders take the reins of institutional leadership, ABHE is committed to providing the professional development each sphere of leadership needs to lead with excellence. Distinguished competency, expanding capacity, and Christ-like character ... those are the outcomes of ABHE's comprehensive professional leadership development strategy.



Projects

Cultivating Flourishing Institutions

- \$1,800,000** ABHE Leadership Academy – Professional Training for the Next Generation of Biblical Higher Education Leaders
Providing as a member benefit, 100 online video-based micro courses on biblical worldview, integration and teaching for faculty, leadership development for C-suite leaders and governance training for boards.

Shepherding a Spiritual Movement

- \$120,000** My Utmost for His Highest – 50,000 copies of the modern classic version
Providing a hardback copy of this modern classic devotional to every student, faculty, staff, board members and major donors across ABHE with a call to a fully-devoted obedience in our walk with Christ, giving our utmost for his highest.

Championing Biblical Higher Education

- \$180,000** Biblical Higher Ed Weekly Podcast Initiative – 3 years @ \$60,000/year
Engaging leaders and practitioners in biblical higher education and beyond, tapping their wisdom for navigating the complexities we face in higher education and hearing them share how to take their institution from its current state to its future potential.
- \$60,000** Canadian C-Suite Gathering
A strategic meeting of biblical higher education leaders from across Canada, addressing issues pertinent to the Canadian cultural climate and vital to the flourishing of our Canadian institutions.

Ensuring ABHE Organizational Strength and Capacity Building

- \$200,000** Staff Capacity Building
Addressing the challenges of employee changes and the need for additional staff to support a growing array of services.
- \$300,000** Annual Fund Support – 3 years @ \$100,000/year
Funding ABHE's annual Leadership Development Offering for three years during the capital campaign.
- \$300,000** Strategic Reserve – Ensuring the Future of Biblical Higher Education
Building an operational reserve in light of the general volatility in the higher education market, government regulation overreach, cultural headwinds, and enrollment challenges.
- \$40,000** Campaign Expenses
Travel, printing, and promotion associated with the Leading Higher Capital Campaign.

\$3,000,000 Campaign Goal

Strategic Planning

Tied directly to our Leading Higher Capital Campaign are projects from our Strategic Plan. As resources have come in, we've already begun operationalizing the following projects:

My Utmost for His Highest

This year, we distributed 50,000 copies of Oswald Chambers' modernized devotional across our movement. Over 90 orders were placed representing ABHE member institutions.

Leadership Academy

At ABHE's 79th Annual Meeting we formally launched our Leadership Academy with our first 23 developed courses. Over the next couple of years, we will continue to add courses to the platform. These courses are FREE to leaders and faculty at all ABHE member institutions.

Staff Capacity Building

This year, we hired two new employees — Jazmine Grafton joins us as our first Marketing and Communications Director, and Eric Brandt joins us as the Leadership Academy Director.

Canadian C-Suite Gathering

This fall, we hosted our 2nd Gathering in Canmore, AB. Over 90 c-suite leaders gathered to network, learn, and worship.

ABHE Communities

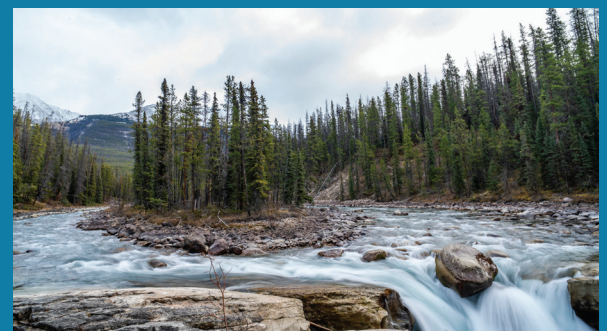
This fall, we launched a platform for peer leaders across ABHE to engage and network on issues related to their roles and responsibilities. Distinct communities for boards and c-suite officers have been rolled out. We anticipate launching additional communities over this next year.

Comparative Data Analysis

Available immediately is a new benchmarking website [HERE](#) where members can compare ABHE peer institutions across key institutional measures like enrollment, faculty, and finances. Using the Filters tab, institutions can quickly build their own peer group (by status, degree level, location, enrollment size, and more), and those filters apply across every page of the report. To protect member privacy, most visuals and tables will only display when at least 10 institutions are included in your selection. [HERE](#) is an instructional overview of this new tool. On this website, members can also download the ABHE Institutional Snapshot Excel workbook to review individual institution data points.

Biblical Higher Ed Talk Podcast

We celebrated our 100th episode at the end of 2025. We have 11,500 downloads and counting!



Leadership Development

Strong Attendance – all our leadership events were well attended:

485 Leadership Development attendees at **14** events

11,500+ Podcast Downloads



“The sessions were all relevant and useful. The conference structure and events also provide opportunities for networking and collaborating with other academic leaders, which is wonderful.”

— Academic Leaders Conference Attendee



“I appreciate the work and support of ABHE. I continue to benefit from all the resources and network of Godly individuals in ABHE who glorify God through biblical higher education!”

— Student Development Leaders Conference Attendee



USDE Update

On July 8, 2025, Commission staff submitted ABHE's petition for renewal of recognition to the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The petition for renewal included an expansion of scope request for doctoral education. (ABHE has accredited doctoral programs since 2004 based on CHEA recognition, but doctoral programs accredited by ABHE are not currently eligible for Title IV federal aid programs.) Recognition is a two-year process, so we expect news on renewal of recognition and our expansion of scope request by late 2027.

Over the past several months, ED has conducted negotiated rulemaking on several provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB). Proposed rules resulting from negotiated rulemaking include elimination of the Grad PLUS program, capping Parent PLUS loans, new annual/lifetime caps for most student borrowers, new loan repayment plans holding institutions accountable, and creation of a new Workforce Pell Grant program.

A proposed regulation establishing a new accountability measure warrants particular attention. The new measure amends the current regulations on Financial Value Transparency (FVT) and Gainful Employment (GE), creating a unified earnings test for all programs. Students completing a bachelor's degree or less must earn more than individuals aged 25-34 with a HS diploma, and students that complete a graduate or professional degree must earn more than individuals aged 25-34 with a bachelor's degree. If the earnings test is not met two out of three years, the program loses access

to federal loans. Furthermore, if 50% of aid dollars are flowing to or 50% of students are enrolled in programs that fail the earnings test, the institution can lose access to Pell Grants as well. These provisions are likely to have a disproportionately negative effect on ABHE institutions. Be watching the Federal Register for the opportunity to provide public comment on this and other proposed regulations, which are scheduled to be final by July 1, 2026.

Accreditation is at the crossroads of a lose-lose reality. During his campaign, President Trump called accreditation his "secret weapon" to effect change in higher education, while institutional leaders often view accreditation as too burdensome and overly regulatory. This is the context for upcoming negotiated rulemaking on accreditation. At a recent meeting of higher education accreditors, Nicholas Kent, Undersecretary for Postsecondary Education, outlined the administration's priorities: simplify recognition processes, eliminate remaining regional distinctions, increase scrutiny on separate and independent requirements, focus on outcomes, facilitate greater transfer of credit, eliminate accreditation DEI standards, ensure that public institutions comply with Constitution, and enhance protections for states' rights. While accreditors have common interest with ED on some of these issues, it is important for faith-based accreditors and institutions to have strong representation on the negotiated rulemaking committee.

For more information or to make a nomination, visit:

www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/27/2026-01620/intent-to-establish-negotiated-rulemaking-committee

2025 Annual Institutional Update (AIU) Points of Interest

Annual Report Highlights – Here are some interesting points as you review the detailed data at the end of my report:

- ABHE membership is up **4.4%** since a year ago
- Our overall unduplicated student headcount is **86,639** – an **18%** increase from last year
- Undergraduate full-time enrollment increased by **10%**
- Graduate education enrollment increased **40%**
- Average tenure for presidents ticked up from **7.6** years in 2024 to **7.7** years in 2025

ABHE by the Numbers

MEMBERSHIP (165 total as of January 1, 2026)

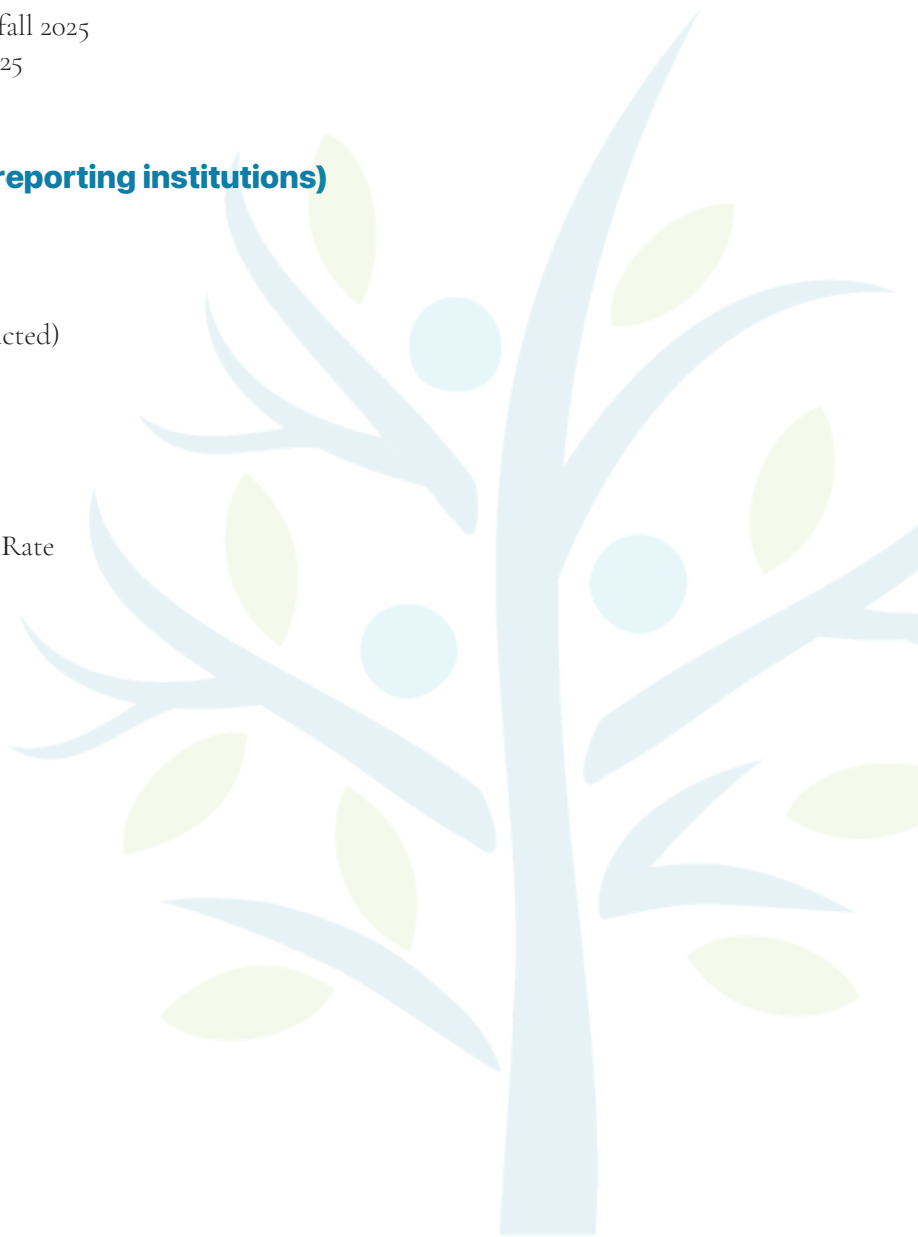
117	COA Accredited Institutions
7	COA Programmatically Accredited
10	Accredited – Other
9	COA Candidate
22	COA Applicant

ENROLLMENT

86,639	Total 2024-25 Unduplicated Headcount (all terms)
77,303	Fall 2025 Total Enrollment Headcount
44,108	Fall 2025 Total Enrollment FTE
53,435	Total undergraduate students for fall 2025
23,868	Total graduate students for fall 2025

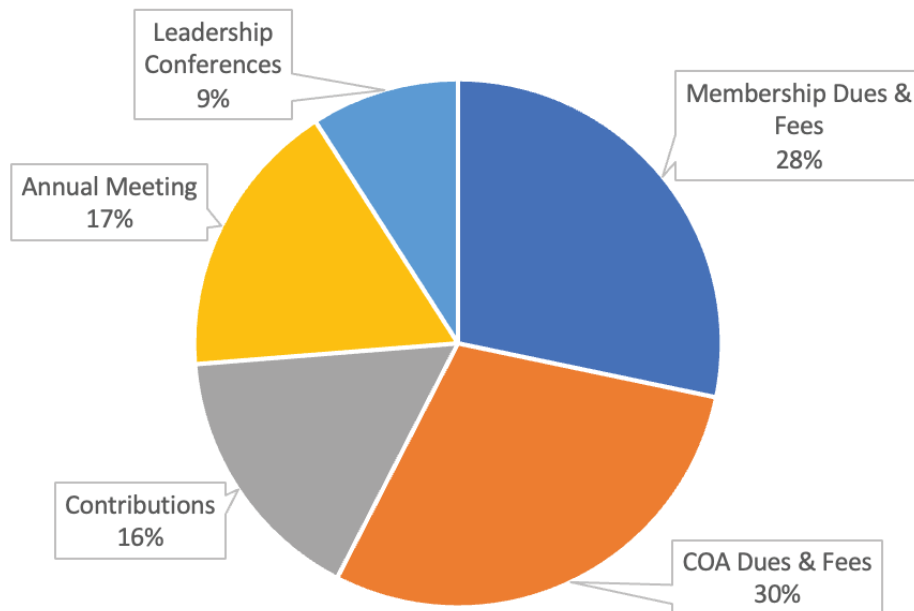
MEMBERSHIP FINANCES (based on 130 reporting institutions)

\$2,584,695,002	Total Assets
\$1,277,728,484	Net Assets
\$856,665,278	Educational & General Expenses
\$359,413,394	Gift Income (unrestricted & restricted)
\$274,616,932	Long Term Debt
\$539,085,602	Undergraduate Tuition Revenue
\$152,455,640	Graduate Tuition Revenue
\$64,224,471	Student Aid (Funded)
\$169,481,113	Student Aid (Unfunded)
21%	Average Undergraduate Discount Rate
14%	Average Graduate Discount Rate

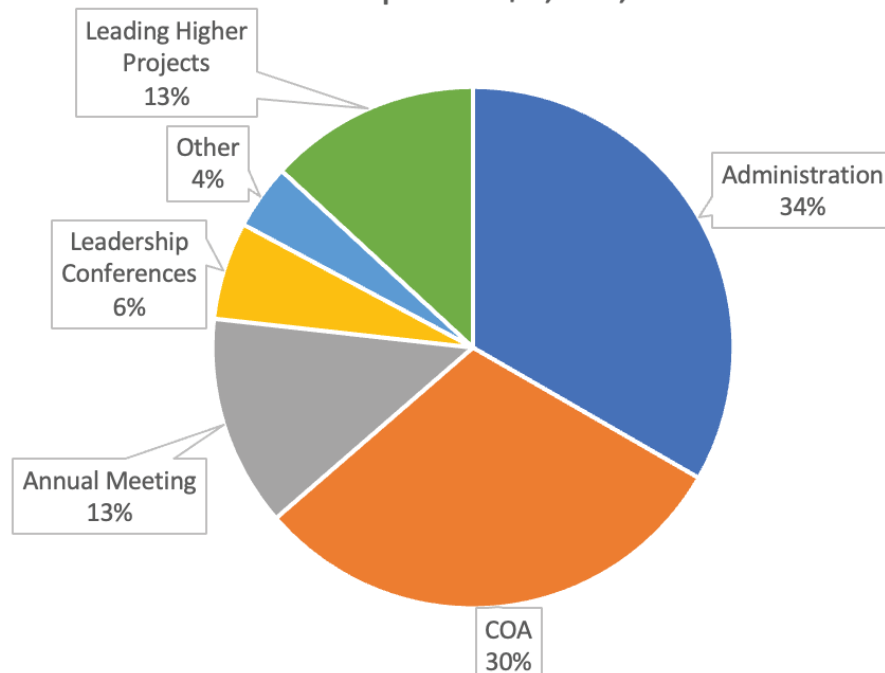


2024-2025 ABHE Financial Report

Total Revenue: \$2,687,000



Total Expense: \$2,736,000



2025 Annual Report Data Summary

Note the following about the 2024 Annual Report Data Summary:

- 2025 data were collected from 157 of 165 ABHE institutions
- 2024 data were collected from 154 of 160 ABHE institutions
- 2023 data were collected from 162 of 162 ABHE institutions
- 2022 data were collected from 155 of 158 ABHE institutions
- 2021 data were collected from 153 of 154 ABHE institutions
- 2025 financial data were collected from 141 of 165 ABHE institutions
- 2024 financial data were collected from 132 of 160 ABHE institutions
- 2023 financial data were collected from 130 of 162 ABHE institutions
- 2022 financial data were collected from 133 of 155 ABHE institutions
- 2021 financial data were collected from 142 of 149 ABHE institutions
- Data are presented as they were submitted to ABHE

FALL 2025 ADMISSIONS DATA

Traditional Undergraduate Admissions

	<i>Fall TOTAL Applications</i>	<i>Fall Completed Applications</i>	<i>Fall Admitted</i>	<i>Fall Enrolled</i>	<i>Conversion Rate</i>	<i>Applicant Completion Rate</i>	<i>Yield Rate</i>
2021	20,962	11,544	10,405	6,265	44%	60%	60%
2022	29,056	19,358	18,048	6,888	47%	66%	38%
2023	30,511	18,436	16,729	7,025	46%	65%	74%
2024	30,560	19,358	18,119	7,823	42%	63%	71%
2025	39,123	25,519	21,625	8,494	47%	68%	74%

FALL 2025 ENROLLMENT DATA

Fall Undergraduate Enrollment Summary

	<i>Fall FT Undergrad Headcount</i>	<i>Fall PT Undergrad Headcount</i>	<i>Fall TOTAL Undergrad Headcount</i>	<i>Fall PT Undergrad Hours Sold</i>	<i>Fall Undergrad FTE</i>
2021	22,296	13,788	36,084	70,649	28,183
2022	23,765	15,367	39,132	77,050	30,186
2023	23,628	19,554	43,182	97,571	31,759
2024	25,990	19,991	45,981	102,255	34,551
2025	28,639	24,796	53,435	119,084	38,497

Fall Graduate Enrollment Summary

	<i>Fall FT Grad Headcount</i>	<i>Fall PT Grad</i>	<i>Fall TOTAL Grad Headcount</i>	<i>Fall PT Grad Hours Sold</i>	<i>Fall Grad FTE</i>
2021	7,480	6,794	14,274	31,800	11,013
2022	7,580	8,477	16,057	36,605	11,647
2023	7,622	9,199	16,821	40,707	12,145
2024	8,265	8,785	17,050	37,026	12,379
2025	11,568	12,300	23,868	63,967	13,327

Fall Total Enrollment Summary

	<i>Fall TOTAL Headcount</i>	<i>Fall TOTAL FTE</i>
2021	50,358	39,197
2022	55,189	41,833
2023	60,003	43,904
2024	63,031	46,890
2025	77,303	57,172

FY2024 – 2025 ENROLLMENT DATA

	<i>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Undergraduate Headcount</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Graduate Headcount</i>	<i>Fiscal Year TOTAL Unduplicated Headcount</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Undergraduate Credits Sold</i>	<i>Fiscal Year Unduplicated Graduate Credits Sold</i>	<i>Fiscal Year TOTAL Credits Sold</i>
2021	45,090	18,199	63,289	859,601	216,937	1,076,538
2022	46,693	19,919	66,612	849,937	237,053	1,086,991
2023	50,247	20,882	71,129	865,173	230,463	1,095,636
2024	52,744	20,214	72,958	886,048	224,701	1,110,749
2025	60,617	30,383	86,639	946,638	320,192	1,217,747

FACULTY COUNTS

	<i>Faculty >50% Teaching Load</i>	<i>Faculty <50% Teaching Load</i>	<i>Faculty w/no Teaching Load</i>	<i>Part- time/Adjunct Faculty</i>	<i>TOTAL Faculty</i>
2021	1,393	406	259	4,422	6,480
2022	1,424	455	267	4,583	6,729
2023	1,461	420	308	4,706	6,895
2024	1,465	414	303	5,203	7,385
2025	1,500	404	339	5,741	7,984

OUTCOMES DATA

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fall FTFT Retention Rate	55%	65%	63%	64%	64%
Annual UG New Student Retention Rate		63%	63%	66%	67%
Graduation & Transfer Out Rate	66%	65%	62%	63%	57%
Graduation Rate	49%	48%	47%	48%	44%

FINANCIAL DATA

Tuition Revenue

	<i>Gross Tuition Revenue</i>
Undergrad	\$539,085,602
Grad	\$152,455,640
TOTAL	\$691,541,242

Financial Aid

	<i>Student Aid (funded)</i>	<i>Student Aid (unfunded)</i>	<i>TOTAL Student Aid</i>
Undergrad	\$64,224,471	\$169,481,113	\$233,705,584
Grad	\$25,742,918	\$15,320,595	\$41,063,513
TOTAL	\$89,967,389	\$184,801,708	\$274,769,097

Discount Rate

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UG Discount Rate	36%	21%	20%	21%	21%
Grad. Discount Rate	17%	14%	15%	14%	14%

Expenses, Assets, & Debt

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Expenses	\$770,830,256	\$898,147,337	\$945,687,608	\$957,987,972	\$1,176,133,148
Education Expenses	\$620,413,531	\$678,858,773	\$765,371,845	\$782,091,650	\$856,665,278
Total Net Assets	\$1,638,490,286	\$1,888,288,855	\$2,416,408,434	\$2,678,814,086	\$2,584,695,002
Short Term Debt	\$43,703,642	\$65,159,793	\$61,889,708	\$54,669,134	\$30,800,068
Long Term Debt	\$321,153,650	\$269,055,040	\$264,308,560	\$327,890,705	\$274,616,932

