

## College Financial Health, Spring 2025

Prospective students and families lack accessible tools to assess college financial health, despite available federal Department of Education (DOE) data—leading to uninformed choices, potential educational disruption, and hidden systemic risks in higher education.

To address these problems, our project utilized the DOE’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). It contains detailed information from all colleges, universities, and technical and vocational institutions that participate in federal student financial aid programs. It includes data on enrollment, graduation rates, finances, student demographics, faculty, and more.

This quarter, the team focused on developing a comprehensive, user-friendly interactive dashboard that uses IPEDS data to visualize key financial and operational metrics of U.S. colleges, allowing users to select and view one institution at a time. The dashboard includes interactive visualizations of enrollment trends, student demographic breakdowns, endowment levels, and other critical indicators—based on the college selected by the user—to help assess institutional stability and make better-informed college decisions.

In the future, the team hopes to further improve the data validation process and provide greater clarity on why certain institutions provide limited data for many metrics. Furthermore, the team hopes to widen the metrics studied and ensure the page is public for users to interact with.

### College Financial Health Dashboard

This dashboard helps explore the financial health of U.S. colleges.

Search for a college

University of Utah

#### Endowment Performance

Endowment performance measures the percentage growth of a school’s endowment between the beginning and end of the year. This growth comes from both investment returns and new donations, minus any spending. Strong growth indicates effective investment management and fiscal responsibility.

\*The benchmark was taken as a median over the Carnegie classification that the school was assigned to. University of Utah was classified as Doctoral Universities: Very High Research Activity.

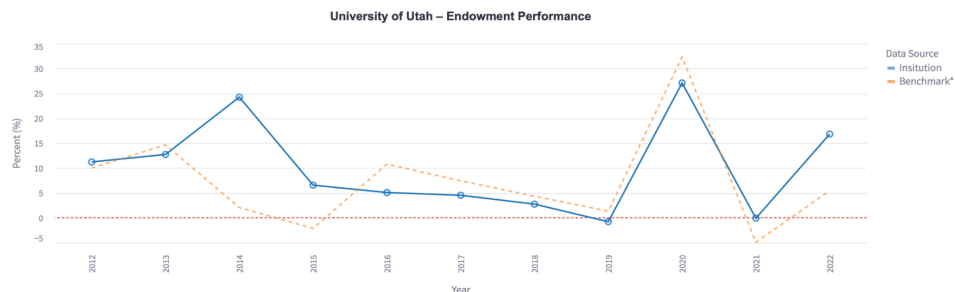


Figure 1: A section of the Financial Health Streamlit Dashboard, displaying Endowment Performance from 2012–2023 for the University of Utah.