



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

FY2024 Operating Budget Development Narrative Prompts

UW Summer Sessions

Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narratives

- 1) Please briefly summarize your unit's/campus's strategic plan and how your FY24 operating budget proposal (as submitted in Workday Adaptive Planning) connects to your campus/unit strategic plan. [Word Limit: 500](#)

Summer Sessions (SUM) 2022 enrollments and student credit hours (SCH) declined compared to the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, but increased slightly compared to SUM 2019, the last pre-pandemic year. The year-over-year decline in both enrollments and SCH is likely attributable to two factors: 1) a reduced number of online courses (compared to the two pandemic summers) offered by the UW, and 2) an exceptionally robust labor market, which made it highly attractive for students to work or pursue an internship during SUM 2022.

Nonetheless, the UW did see growth in the number of online courses, enrollments, and SCH in SUM 2022 compared to SUM 2019. Eight of the top 10 enrollment courses in SUM 2022 were delivered online. These results provide ample evidence that the greater availability of online courses expands student access to UW during the summer. This includes greater access for matriculated UW undergraduates as well as non-matriculated student groups, including high-school students, undergraduates who are enrolled at other post-secondary institutions, and adult learners.

Since growth in student headcount, credit hours, and revenues are the primary goals of the Summer Sessions strategic plan, the Summer Sessions strategic plan continues to emphasize the need for the UW to expand its portfolio of online courses in future summers. The UW is lagging many of its peer institutions, which indicates significant opportunity for enrollment growth if faculty and departments increase their online course offerings. Accordingly, academic units on the Seattle campus have been strongly encouraged to offer more online courses for SUM 2023 and future years. This recommendation is supported by student survey data that indicates greater student acceptance of and demand for online courses, particularly in the summer when many students may not reside in Seattle yet still want to enroll in a UW course to graduate on time or meet other educational goals.

If academic units revert to primarily on-campus course delivery during future summers, the UW risks not achieving its Summer Sessions growth goals and under-serving certain student groups. The students most adversely impacted by a predominantly on-campus delivery model would include UW undergraduates who reside some distance from the Seattle campus during the summer months, UW undergraduates with employment or internship obligations that preclude attending classes at certain times, and non-matriculated students who, for a variety of reasons, cannot or choose not to attend classes on campus.

- 2) Building on the responses your campus/unit submitted during the FY23 annual review cycle ([posted here](#)), how has your unit/campus integrated the themes and goals of [the 2022 – 2026 UW Diversity Blueprint](#) into your campus's/unit's ongoing work to take actions towards access, inclusion, and equity? [Word Limit: 750](#)

Summer Sessions course offerings are determined solely by UW academic units, not the Summer Sessions administrative team, which provides data and other resources to assist academic units in their planning for Summer Sessions. Enrollment and student-survey data support the delivery of Summer Sessions courses that fulfill general-education or major requirements as well as other courses that may be capacity-constrained during the regular academic year, particularly if those courses are offered online.



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The below Summer Sessions initiatives are designed to have a favorable impact on serving more diverse student groups in the future:

First, the greater availability of online courses in future summers increases access to certain student groups, including non-matriculated students. As a group, many non-matriculated students fall outside the traditional age range for undergraduates, in particular high-school students and adult learners. In SUM 2021, the youngest student enrolled in a UW course was 13 and the oldest was 87.

Second, the Summer Sessions administrative team is exploring the potential for developing a summer-only financial-aid pool that could be dedicated to support certain under-represented student groups (e.g., low-income Washington residents who otherwise could not afford a Summer Sessions course). While this initiative is only in the exploratory phase, other peer institutions have used financial aid effectively to grow enrollments and support underrepresented students in their pursuit of various educational goals.