

Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs

To stay competitive and ensure a prosperous future, Alberta is launching a reimagined vision for post-secondary education in our province. In response to calls for change and to ensure Alberta's resilience, the Ministry of Advanced Education initiated the Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs review and strategy.

This summary outlines our vision, goals, objectives and flagship initiatives for the future of Alberta's post-secondary system, driving toward innovative and transformative change.

Our Vision

Alberta's **world-class** post-secondary system will equip Albertans with the **skills, knowledge and competencies** they need to succeed in their lifelong pursuits. The system will be highly **responsive to labour market needs** and, through **innovative programming and excellence in research**, contribute to the betterment of an **innovative and prosperous Alberta**.

Alberta 2030 Goals



Improve Access and Student Experience

Ensure all Albertans have access to high-quality post-secondary opportunities and that the student experience is coordinated and integrated.



Develop Skills for Jobs

Ensure every student has the skills, knowledge and competencies to enjoy fulfilling lives and careers and that they have greater transparency around labour market outcomes.



Support Innovation and Commercialization

Contribute to Alberta's innovation capacity by supporting post-secondary research and strengthening its commercialization potential to create new knowledge, develop future skills and diversify the economy.



Strengthen Internationalization¹

Become a leading destination for top talent to drive the growth of skills, ideas and innovations, locally and globally.



Improve Sustainability and Affordability

Provide institutions greater flexibility to generate own-source revenue and strengthen student aid.



Strengthen System Governance

Modernize governance of the system to increase collaboration and drive outcomes.

¹ Developed as part of Alberta's International Student Strategy (February 2020)

Alberta 2030 Objectives



Improve Access and Student Experience

1. Empower learners to make informed decisions on post-secondary pathways.
2. Ensure that students have a high-quality experience.
3. Improve the transfer system and foster flexible career and education pathways.
4. Prioritize the expansion of digital infrastructure and support distance education to reach students where they are.
5. Develop targeted strategies to strengthen the inclusion of Indigenous learners.
6. Improve support for foundational learning and create integrated pathways for learners.
7. Support the expansion of Open Educational Resources, such as course materials and textbooks.



Develop Skills for Jobs

1. Become the first province in Canada to offer every undergraduate student access to a work-integrated learning opportunity.
2. Expand apprenticeships in careers of the future.
3. Reduce the skills gap by fostering the strongest employer, industry and post-secondary partnership environment in Canada.
4. Develop strategies and approaches to measure employment-related skills in students.
5. Develop a provincial framework to guide the development of micro-credentials.
6. Streamline the program approval process to allow institutions greater ability to respond to labour market needs and develop innovative new programming.
7. Strengthen the role of post-secondary institutions in the reskilling and upskilling of our workforce.



Support Innovation and Commercialization

1. Attract and nurture world-class faculty and students.
2. Drive Alberta's competitiveness in critical areas by aligning resources and incentives.
3. Set a national standard for policies and practices that foster commercialization.



Strengthen Internationalization

1. Attract talented international students to Alberta's post-secondary institutions and communities.
2. Equip learners with international skills and competencies.



Improve Sustainability and Affordability

1. Set a global bar for efficiency, transparency and accountability.
2. Enable institutions to compete for and grow non-provincial sources of funding while preserving access for all Albertans.
3. Deconsolidate certain institutions to reduce red tape and strengthen innovation and entrepreneurialism.
4. Implement a funding formula to determine allocations to institutions.
5. Prioritize future student aid funding to grants and bursaries.
6. Explore the modernization of student aid to support diverse learners and the needs of the economy.



Strengthen System Governance

1. Establish a new and world-class governance structure to improve system outcomes, drive collaboration, depoliticize decision-making, and foster continual long-term strategic planning.
2. Simplify the current six-sector governance model.
3. Develop Centres of Excellence around key areas of programming and research.

Alberta 2030 Flagship Initiatives



Improve Access and Student Experience

- Empower student decision-making by streamlining and simplifying the post-secondary application process.
- Improve the transfer system so that no student repeats equivalent coursework due to transferability challenges.
- Expand access to digital infrastructure for online learning in rural and remote communities by collaborating with other ministries to pursue federal funding and explore industry partnerships.
- Continue to equip institutions with resources to support students' mental well-being.
- Modernize the existing provincial framework to address sexual violence in Alberta's campus communities, and work with institutions and students to strengthen relevant policies and practices.
- Work in partnership with the federal government, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit leaders, First Nations colleges, Indigenous learners and other stakeholders to improve foundational pathways, transitions, access, participation, completion and labour market outcomes for Indigenous learners.



Develop Skills for Jobs

- Become the first province in Canada to offer access to work-integrated learning to 100 per cent of students.
- Build, fund, and establish policy to support apprenticeship-style programs in a wide range of occupations, including emerging high-tech trades.
- Encourage more young Albertans to pursue careers in the trades and work to create a parity of esteem between trades and academic learning.
- Provide high-quality labour market data to support students, employers and institutions in making informed decisions regarding programs and pathways.
- Establish an agile program development process to ensure post-secondary institutions can provide nimble, relevant and effective learning opportunities, including micro-credentials.
- Support institutions to become the go-to providers of employer-paid upskilling programs.



Support Innovation and Commercialization

- Convene institutions, industry and potential investors to advance cutting edge research and innovation collaborations and grow federal and industry investment in priority areas.
- Strengthen research and innovation planning, and work across entities to align provincial contributions for post-secondary research to promote commercialization to meet economic diversification priorities.
- Work with ecosystem partners to establish and fund a central entity to build and provide first-rate commercialization and entrepreneurship capabilities system-wide.
- Support implementation of an intellectual property framework for Alberta, which will include fostering industry/institution collaboration, and adoption of faculty promotion and tenure policies to incentivize faculty to pursue entrepreneurial activities.



Strengthen Internationalization

- Develop an Education in Alberta brand and promotional materials to demonstrate the top reasons to study in Alberta and increase visibility of Alberta's international education offerings.
- Implement an international marketing strategy including signature international education events and Team Alberta missions to priority markets that have growth potential for international student mobility and align with Alberta's economic priorities.
- Define and monitor outcomes and key performance indicators for international education in Alberta (e.g., domestic enrolment targets, international students' experiences, ratio of international to Alberta students, impact on local labour market and communities).



Improve Sustainability and Affordability

- Sponsor a shared service centre for academic (e.g., enrolment) and non-academic areas (e.g., human resources, finance).
- Ensure tuition remains affordable, competitive and predictable.
- Increase need-based financial aid to ensure Albertans have the financial support they need to pursue post-secondary programming.
- Reduce financial controls to provide institutions with greater financial flexibility to grow their own-source revenues, and enable financial deconsolidation of some institutions from government.
- Implement a performance-based funding model that ties funding to outcomes that align with this strategy.
- Expand availability of needs-based grants through Alberta Student Aid.



Strengthen System Governance

- Establish a system-level, independent council to advise the minister on strategic priorities, system-wide collaboration, best practices in other jurisdictions, and positioning Alberta as a leader in the national and international higher education landscape.
- Streamline the institutional sector model and establish a coordinating committee for each sector.
- Establish a new governance framework with clear mandates and accountabilities for system- and institution-level outcomes in teaching, research and innovation, and collaboration.
- Explore amending the current composition of boards of governors so government no longer appoints a majority of the members at certain institutions, and lengthen board tenure to minimize turnover.