

UTAH COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

AGENDA ITEM

UCAT BOARD OF TRUSTEES 12 January 2017

ITEM: II.I

TOPIC: Revision of UCAT Certificate Attainment Goal

BACKGROUND

In its 14 January 2016 meeting, the UCAT Board of Trustees approved the goal that by 2020, UCAT colleges would be awarding at least 9,500 total certificates annually. The goal is part of the Governor's Education Excellence Commission's Utah Education Plan, which is an update to the Governor's 66% by 2020 initiative. This certificate attainment goal included accredited program certificates and Occupational Skills Certificates lasting at least 60 hours in duration.

In summer 2016, under the direction of the Board and in response to legislative audit recommendations, UCAT administration conducted a review of all educational programs offered by the colleges, examining the significance of student achievements upon completion of those programs. The conclusions and recommendations of that review were presented to the Board in its 14 September 2016 meeting. One recommendation adopted in that meeting was the removal of Occupational Skills Certificates from all college offerings, policies, and reports. The discontinuation of Occupational Skills Certificates necessitates a revision of UCAT's certificate attainment goal set in January 2016.

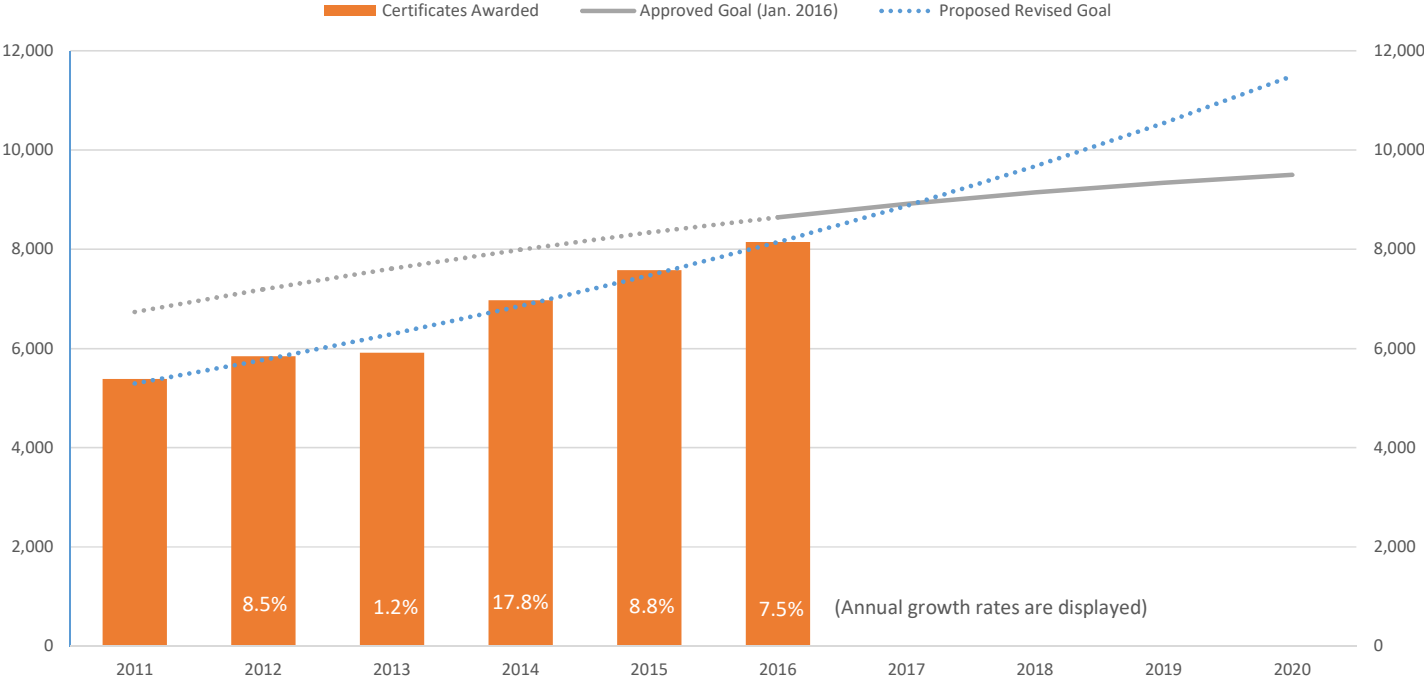
Upon examination of UCAT performance trends, UCAT administration and the college presidents feel that the goal to award 9,500 certificates annually by 2020 is not sufficiently aggressive, even after the removal of Occupational Skills Certificates from previous years' totals. Current trends suggest that the colleges will easily achieve and exceed this mark. The goal was set under the assumption that absent new appropriations, marginal growth rates will decline, and any growth in certificate attainment will result from increased efficiencies rather than program expansion. However, growth in certificate attainment has remained relatively steady for the past five years, averaging 8.76% annually. Year-to-date FY 2017 certificate attainment suggests this growth will continue through the current fiscal year. Modeling past performance and assuming a stretch-goal growth of 9% annually, UCAT may reach 11,492 annual awards by 2020 (see attached). This target has been vetted by and is supported by the college presidents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

UCAT Administration recommends the Board of Trustees approve a revised goal of increasing annual certificate attainment to at least 11,492 awards by 2020 for inclusion in Governor Herbert's Utah Education Plan.

Attachments: UCAT Certificate Attainment, 2011-2020 (Projected)

UCAT Certificate Attainment, 2011 - 2020 (Projected)



Year	Awards
2011	5,386
2012	5,846
2013	5,918
2014	6,971
2015	7,582
2016	8,150
2017	8,876
2018	9,674
2019	10,544
2020	11,492