

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings in this report, the Coordinating Commission recommends the following courses of action in the interrelated areas of affordability, state investment, and financial aid. By implementing these objectives, the state will come closer to achieving the goals set out in Nebraska's *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education* (Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, 2016).

Affordability of Higher Education

- Institutions should exert all reasonable efforts to restrain tuition and fee increases and other student expenses, while continuing to offer high-quality education, service, and research.
- Students should attempt to complete their academic programs in an efficient manner, moving toward graduation at a steady pace, thereby reducing those “out-of-pocket” expenses and, in many cases, higher student loan debt loads. Institutions should evaluate and address institutional and systemic barriers to timely graduation.

State Investment in Higher Education

- Having an educated population significantly enhances the economic and social well-being of a state. Therefore, **the Commission recommends that the Legislature maintain appropriate levels of state appropriations for public postsecondary institutions in Nebraska.**

Financial Aid for Higher Education

- Since students from low-income families would primarily benefit from financial assistance awarded from the state, **the Commission encourages increased funding for the Nebraska Opportunity Grant program.**