



2024 Legislative Agenda for the University of Kansas

State Priorities:

We are grateful that the Kansas Legislature provided increased funding to KU during the last legislative session. Legislative enhancements to the Kansas comprehensive grant program, need-based student financial aid, and student success funding played a huge role in KU's ability to recruit and retain students. KU's record-setting freshman class would not have happened without the support the Kansas Legislature provided to higher education.

KU Cancer Center Building

This year, the University of Kansas is seeking \$75 million of state funding to help build a state-of-the-art cancer center building. If the state chooses to fund the \$75 million dollar request, their funding will trigger an additional \$75 million of private matching funds.

The vision for The University of Kansas Cancer Center is to be a beacon of hope and a global destination for both those with cancer and for scientists and clinicians seeking to cure cancer. The proposed cancer center building will be a hub that brings together leading-edge patient care and innovation to transform both cancer care and cancer research in our quest to cure cancer together. Currently, our cancer center researchers and clinicians are located at various, separate locations. Patients treated at NCI-designated cancer centers have a 25% greater chance of survival compared to other cancer centers because of the enhanced relationship between patient care and research. This proposed building will advance the KU Cancer Center goals even further, serving as a catalyst for breakthroughs that will significantly change cancer care.

Kansas Boards of Regent and University of Kansas Funding Requests

This year, the Kansas Board of Regents is asking lawmakers for an increase of funding for the state's university system. The University of Kansas supports this request and echoes the Board of Regents' belief that this funding is necessary to ensure state universities can meet the needs of Kansas families and communities and drive prosperity in the state. While last legislative session's investments by the legislature were impactful, the significant increase in operational costs continues to put tremendous upward pressure on tuition and continues to challenge KU's ability to serve Kansas. As KU's success is critical to the state's ability to attract and retain workforce this additional funding is crucial and will be transformative.

Specifically, the additional funding requests would enhance KU's ability to serve Kansas in the following ways:

- **Recruit and retain talented students**, who go on to join the Kansas workforce. With continued investment,

KU would provide additional funding to students with a financial need and impactful student success support measures for students who are pursuing careers in high- need Kansas industries such as cybersecurity, business, engineering and healthcare.

- **Recruit and retain talented faculty and scientists**, who train students while also conducting research that creates new technologies, cures, startup companies, and jobs. KU researchers collectively bring more than \$400 million dollars in research funding to Kansas annually, meaning they provide a terrific return-on-investment.
- **Address inflationary and increased costs** that are hampering our ability to retain top faculty and maintain services for students and communities. This would include additional funding for cybersecurity and deferred maintenance.

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Federal Priorities

The University of Kansas appreciates the continued support received from our federal delegation and looks forward to continuing to partner and work with Congress and its committees to support research and other KU priorities.

- Advocate for increased federal research funding – specifically at the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Education, Department of Energy and the Department of Defense.
 - Included within these agency priorities are general research, biomedical, brain, and cancer research, cybersecurity, energy, etc.
- Support and strengthen KU Cancer Center and its reputation as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, marking it as a national leader in laboratory and clinical research.
- Strengthen KU’s relationships with the Kansas Congressional Delegation, House and Senate Committee leadership, and officials in the Administration.
- Work closely with our colleagues at the Association of American Universities and Association of Public and Land Grant Universities to collaborate on federal priorities regarding higher education and research.

For additional information, contact Kelly Whitten, AVC of State Relations, or Kyle Christian, AVC of Federal Relations at (785)-864-3131.

Interested in advocating for higher education?

KU students, employees, alumni and supporters are encouraged to join **Jayhawks for Higher Education**, the university’s higher education advocacy group headed by the KU Alumni Association. Jayhawks for Higher Education members receive updates throughout the legislative session, are notified of legislative events in their area, and are called upon at key moments during the session to contact legislators on behalf of KU.

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