



2025 Legislative Agenda for the University of Kansas

State Priorities:

We are grateful that the Kansas Legislature provided \$75 million of state funding to help build a state-of-art cancer center building. This was in addition to critically important increases in funding for need-based student financial aid, a 2.5% pay raise for employees, and student success. This increased funding played a huge role in KU's ability to recruit and retain students. KU's record-setting overall student enrollment and freshman class enrollment would not have happened without the support the Kansas Legislature provided to higher education.

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.



KU Specific State Requests:

- **Expand and increase funding for the the Kansas Medical Student Loan program**
- **Funding to help build a new School of Architecture building**
- **Funding to support the attracting and retaining new research faculty at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University.**

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.

