

AGENDA

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 6, 2025

SECTION I – GENERAL AND ACADEMIC MATTERS

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, MEETING

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

C. REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee will meet prior to the Board of Trustees meeting on November 6, 2025. A report will be presented.

D. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

E. APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Candidates for doctoral, master’s, baccalaureate, associate degrees, and certificates to be conferred on December 13, 2025, are listed in Exhibit I-A.

Approval to award the degrees and certificates presented in Exhibit I-A, subject to the completion of all requirements, is recommended.

F. APPROVAL OF NEW CERTIFICATES AND MICROCREDENTIALS

Approval of the certificates and microcredentials in Exhibit I-B is recommended.

G. FORMATION OF POLICY REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Article III, Section 10, of the Board of Trustees bylaws, Powers of the Board of Trustees, grants specific powers to the Board by statutes of the State of Indiana and provisions for the Board to exercise the reasonable powers necessary to conduct the affairs of the University. To evaluate opportunities for strengthening institutional oversight, an ad hoc committee to review University policies and practices for compliance and alignment with state and federal laws, ethical standards, and governance requirements, will be appointed.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

At its Annual Meeting on July 10, 2025, the Board of Trustees appointed President Bridges as Interim Treasurer, until which time the vacant Vice President for Finance and Administration position was successfully filled. That stipulation has been met, and the Treasurer will officially be appointed.

B. REPORT OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Finance/Audit Committee will meet prior to the Board of Trustees meeting on November 6, 2025. A report will be presented.

C. ANNUAL REPORT OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A report will be presented on student financial assistance administered by the University during 2024-2025 (Exhibit II-A).

D. REPORT ON INSURANCE RENEWALS

A report will be presented on insurance changes and renewals effective January 1, 2026.

E. REPORT OF CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDERS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT

The construction change orders authorized by the President and previously approved by the Construction Committee (Exhibit II-B) will be reviewed.

F. UPDATE ON CURRENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

A report on the status of current construction projects will be presented. Exhibit II-C includes a summary of the costs and funding sources for each project.

SECTION III - PERSONNEL MATTERS

A. REPORT ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR 2026-2027

The following leaves of absence will be reviewed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>University Unit</u>
Dr. Perry Burnett	Academic Year 2026-2027	Romain College of Business
Dr. Jason Hill	Fall 2026	Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education
Dr. Renee Frimming	Spring 2027	Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education
Dr. Cacee Mabis	Spring 2027	College of Liberal Arts

B. REPORT ON FACULTY, ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF RETIREMENTS

Professor of English Charles A. Conaway, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective January 1, 2027, after 20 years of service, including leave with pay from August 1, 2026, to December 23, 2026.

Professor of Physics, Kent W. Scheller, in accordance with the revised retirement policy, will retire effective January 1, 2027, after 27 years of service, including leave with pay from August 1, 2026, to December 23, 2026.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing Pamela K. Thomas, in accordance with the regular retirement policy, will retire effective June 1, 2026, after 14 years of service.

C. APPROVAL OF EMERITUS STATUS

Approval of the following emeritus titles is recommended.

Professor Emeritus of English Charles A. Conaway

Professor Emeritus of Engineering Marco A. Lara Gracia (Posthumous) (2008-2025)

Professor Emeritus of Physics Kent W. Scheller

Clinical Assistant Professor Emerita of Nursing Pamela K. Thomas

**CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
December 13, 2025**

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Jeffrey Dierlam
Tayler Dove
Dustin Hitt
Heidi Tasa

**DOCTOR OF NURSING
PRACTICE**

Benita Randolph

**POSTMASTER'S
CERTIFICATES**

Allen D. Woodruff

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
COMMUNICATION**

Molly Cummings
Rachel L. Johnson

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Madison E. Bockelman
Alice R. Burris
Manoucheka Damas
Seth P. Hudson
Katherine Powell
Emma R. Vaught

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
ENGLISH**

Ashlee Hoos

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
SECOND LANGUAGE
ACQUISITION, POLICY AND
CULTURE**

Jamarro D. Johnson

**MASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**

Myrina Abukhalil
Warda A. Alaisari
Ahmed Aljalil
Hassan Alshamrani
Emma Alterson
Patricio Amezcua-Frias
Megan E. Armstrong
Taylor Austin
Shari Baird
Melissa R. Beague
Ryan T. Beal
Sarah Beery
James C. Bender
Devon Bequette
Evan R. Bertram
Jered L. Blanton
Devin G. Bobay
Michael A. Boylan
Alexander Brand

Christian Brock
Kenneth Brookins
James W. Buchanan
Todd S. Burgess
Tyree Campbell
Bridgette Cassety
Arianna N. Chirillo
Amanda E. Chismar
Timothy Cook
DeAmbra Crochrell
Samson A. Dare
Philip R. Davis
Kelsey L. Davis
Allison C. Davis
Emilie Deich
Jacob Diamond
Carol S. Dickhaut
Maya A. Dimitrova
Jan M. Dodd
Bret Dorfman
Jimmie Easley
Alyssa M. Ebert
Sasha Eugene
Ryleigh A. Evans
Rasanga R. Fernando
Gina J. Flores
Nathan A. Forshey
Riley Freels
Dana Funkhouser
Eden Gebre
Miranda K. German
Ashley C. Gilbert
Mitchell Gilman
Adena Goldstein
James Grinnell
Aldijana Grizic Sefo
Jason Grotts
Georgios Hadjisavva
Jennifer Hargrove
Ryan J. Harris
Allison Harville
Jared Hatteberg
Brandon M. Hatten
Audrey Head
Robert M. Head
Stephanie Heckler
Shirleyka R. Hector
Paul Hiscock
Jalan Hobson
Sierra Hofmann
Hagan A. Hollinger
Cooper Huckabone
Logan Huskisson
Marissa J. Isquierdo
Erika Jeffers
India Johnson
Robin L. Johnson
Jimmy Jolly
Janessa Julsrud
Parbati Khadka
Cody Knecht

Maren Kochert
Dane V. Lafata
Garrett Leckliter
Jennifer J. Lee
Nathanael D. Lehman
Amber Lemmon
Jacob Long
Duane Long
Amanda M. Lucas
Kaitlyn M. Lunsford
Tina Mahaney
Stacey Main
James H. Maloney
Trey Martinez
Destiny R. Mathews
Braden S. Matthews
Brandon Mays
Andrea McLaughlin
Alexandra N. Medina
Daniel Megel
Collin Miltz
Chloe L. Minor
Christopher Montesdeoca
Szmdar S. Morris
Matthew Moser
Michael A. Moya
John Stephen N. Muchai
Courtney Mukai-Hargis
Caleb R. Mulzer
Tessie M. Myres
Kylie Olivares
Katie S. Omohundro
Chris ONeal
Azeez A. Oseni
Jason Otto
Tyler W. Owens
Derrek Pantelli
Eden M. Parker
Robert Parker
Dondon D. Parungao
Stephen Pavlock
Nina Peischl
Josue I. Perez Fernandez
Kelsie S. Phelps
Ashley E. Pierce
Renee Podczerwinski
Brent R. Potter
William Pranno
John W. Prout
Scott A. Qualls
Sharla C. Rafferty
Kathryn Rathinam
Alvin Rathinam
Haley Reinbrecht
Karen Y. Rico Flores
Alexa B. Roach
Lara P. Roberts
Sara E. Robinson
Marcus Z. Rouhani
Megan Rowland
Brett Ruckman

Usama Saad
Rasool Sanati
Christopher Santiago
Jonathon Schlinder
Pharaoh Scott
Madina S. Shaik
Tyler Shetter
Rachel A. Silliman
Jared M. Simon
Gerald C. Sims
Dimitri A. Siotas
Natalie Sirois
Taryn Smiley
Joshua W. Smith
Mallery South
Katie L. Southern
Katelynn M. Stamm
Timothy S. Stevenson
Robert Struble
Bryce Sullivan
Faith M. Swindle
Vishal J. Thakkar
Alexander P. Theisen
Whitney Thomas
Brian B. Towell
Preston W. Turner
Lisa Turner
Jill M. Uhlenkamp
Amanda Umbriano
John Marc Vander Veer
Michael Walker
Grace M. Weidner
Ethan Welch
Erin White
Julia D. White
Cory Williams
Natasha Wilson
Brian J. Wingard
Ashley Woods
Kevin Ydrovo
Saada Zegar
Moncef Zejli
Laura Zenga

**MASTER OF HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION**

Jean Harris
Molly Johnson
Kendra N. Logsdon
Kimberly A. Moeller
Melissa Parkhurst
James Taylor-Caudill
Lura E. Thach
Cavan Williams

**MASTER OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

David C. Reamer

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
EDUCATION**

Alexa R. Amos
Morgan J. Cahall
Brooklyn G. Cater
James L. Cockerham
Tara A. DeGroff
Justin Denton
Margaret R. Duggan
KaliAnna Farris
Otejri Hart
Samantha Jones
Abbey Klipsch

Julianne D. Lovan
Lori L. Madison
Ashley Molina
Taylor R. Pruitt
LaWan T. Rollins
Aubrey L. Ruxer
Jacob R. Scheller
Michael D. Snidle
Leylah M. Wininger
Sarah B. Ziko

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
NURSING**

Kaitlyn Cross
Amber N. Harris
Hannah Newmark

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
SPORT MANAGEMENT**

Dakota Beaver
Brittany Goebel
Madyson K. Lowe

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Iain J. Girten
Gloria J. Hinterscher
Lillian B. Ireland
Isaac E. Kebortz
Lane M. Mettle
Timothy R. Rosignol
Timothy R. Rosignol
Danna E. Schu
Annyka R. StJohn
Daniela Tenorio Onofre
Maxwell L. Wheeler

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Mary Reese
Landon C. Wagner
Kyllana S. Williams
Mar'Shai A. Wisdom

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Olivia Hugg
Caleb A. Johnson
Ryan E. Jones
Adriana L. Jourdan
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Allison F. Kirsch
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Liam J. Murray
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Phoebe P. Ranger
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Claudia G. Simpson
Bria M. Sisk
Thomas R. Smith
River G. Snodgrass
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Gwendolyn E. Stuckey
Ashlyn A. Thornburgh
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Maya F. Warner
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Staci Reiser
Taylor R. Runyon
Aldren Sarmiento
Cora L. Schmitt
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Jessica Summerville
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INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**
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Corey A. Durham
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Addyson R. Lingafelter
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Andrea K. Messamore
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Darian Montgomery
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Asheley B. Henson
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Samantha L. Kihega
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Logan Zink

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John C. Harrington
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MANUFACTURING
ENGINEERING**
Warren M. Halbig

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Jason R. Meeks
Carson Naone
Braeden A. Senninger
Nolan J. Winkler

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Delaney Maurer
Mason A. Yancey

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Katherine Alvarez
Charity P. Arnold
Cooper A. Ashby
Katherine M. Avis
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Brady A. Bowman
Emily J. Brazzell
Kade A. Brown
Damon L. Brown
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Brooke Buckley
Devin V. Burris
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Mason Camp
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Casey L. Cotton
Kamryn L. Dailey
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Rylea N. Dixon
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Lydia Emmons
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Nolan D. Gehlhausen
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Elle M. Gensic
Christina J. Gentry
Robert M. Gober
Kristen L. Greenwood
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Brooke A. Griesse
Carlie C. Halbrader
Ethan G. Hall
Emma O. Harris
Carmen L. Hasenour
Brooke A. Haug
Rory Heltsley
Carter J. Hood
Caleb J. Hubert
Chase L. Hubert
Garrett T. Hulfachor
Whitney T. Jepsen
Lorena Jimenez
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Christian P. Kocher
Ella G. Kohl
Avery L. Martin
Noah A. Martin
Brock M. Martindale
Jalie R. McElfresh
Brayden S. McKinney
Jackson I. McPherron
Matthew D. McRae
Evan M. Mehringer
Kyle W. Mogle
Olivia K. Money
Jackson Mulherin
JaShaun C. Newman
Yousif N. Osman
Claire D. Patterson
Olivia G. Patton
Dana Pauli
Alex M. Perry
Amber L. Poehlein
Parker L. Provost
Colin Pruitt
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Lillie M. Robertson
Austin Ruehmkorff
Brian J. Samples
Gaurav S. Sandhu
Robert Z. Schoenstein
Hallie L. Scott
Brandon A. Scott-Rivers
Maya Seshan
Kaylee J. Simmons
Shayna R. Smith
Landon J. Smitha
Joe C. Smithson
Jackson A. Springer
Briana R. Stevens
Lillian N. Taft
Seth M. Thomas
Landon P. VanBibber
Clay Wathen
Ty P. Weisman
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Daniel M. Wilkins
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**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE**

Season J. Hagan
Kaitlyn N. Tincher

**KINNEY COLLEGE OF
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Abigail Biggs
Kylie F. Bowlds
Mackenzie G. Brogan
Allyson Brost
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Sarah A. Gruen
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Clayton A. Hauser
Riley L. Ingle
Emily B. James
Emily G. Lynch
Reeanna C. Needy
Brooke E. Pranger
Kelsey Routh
Laine A. Ruggles
Addrianna L. Spain
Klaudia E. Stahl
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ABSTRACTS

Certificates and Microcredentials to be offered By the University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana

Certificate in Restaurant Management (Undergraduate)

The Certificate in Restaurant Management is a nine credit -hour certificate that provides individuals with a strong foundation of knowledge in managing a food service operation. The required courses focus on food safety, restaurant management, purchasing, human resource management, and controlling food service costs. In addition to traditional coursework, there is a practicum course that provides students with hands-on experience in a food service establishment. Students must earn a C or better in all courses. Certificate is open to all majors, minors, and individuals in the community. The program does not require new or additional faculty. One faculty is certified as an instructor/proctor through ServSafe and is qualified to proctor all required exams. The certificate program is offered online with the exception of two proctored exams, and no additional classroom space or supplies will be required for this online certificate.

Evidence of Job Market Need: Due to job market demand heavily focusing on certification over a bachelor's degree for employment within the field of restaurant/food service management, we will offer a Certificate in Restaurant Management to allow for a greater number of individuals to complete the required certification at USI and generate credit hours, while simultaneously preparing individuals to enter management positions in food service operations. Individuals will earn the Restaurant Management Professional credential and complete the ServSafe certification.

Certificate in Human Lactation (Undergraduate):

The Certificate in Human Lactation provides a foundation of knowledge necessary to adequately support a breastfeeding dyad. The required courses for a nine credit-hour certificate focus on basic nutrition, anatomy and physiology of lactation, common lactation issues, and lactation support in community and clinical settings. The courses have a dyad-focused approach to lactation management by focusing on both the mother and baby experience. Students must achieve a grade of C or better in all required courses. The certificate is open to all majors and minors at USI and members of the community.

Evidence of Job Market Need: Multiple healthcare providers across Indiana—including inpatient hospitals, health departments, private practice and milk banks, are actively hiring IBCLCs and lactation consultants. Roles include inpatient and outpatient lactation support, program development, and education, with both full-time and part-time positions available. Employers are seeking candidates with IBCLC certification and experience in maternal-child health, indicating a sustained demand for qualified professionals.

Financial Planning Certificate (Undergraduate):

The Financial Planning Certificate is a 12-hour credit-hour undergraduate certificate program that will offer USI students the requisite background for careers in financial planning, advising, and wealth management. This certificate will allow our students to highlight the skills and knowledge they have gained while at USI. One additional lecturer may be required each semester.

Evidence of Job Market Need: As the population ages and individuals seek help with retirement planning the demand for financial advisors will increase. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected a 17% growth rate nationwide in financial advisor jobs from 2023-2033. On April 8, 2025, the premier source for labor

markets in Indiana predicted a 14.6% increase in financial advisors statewide through 2032 with the Evansville region having a 12.4% increase in financial advisors.

Health and Society Microcredential (Undergraduate): This nine credit-hour undergraduate microcredential is focused on providing a sociological foundation for students preparing to work in medical and health-related fields. Future health care providers would benefit from this micro-credential because understanding the social determinants of health and the social organization of health care is important to their work and patients. For example, pre-med students need a strong foundation in sociology because the entrance exam to medical school (MCAT) tests them on core sociological knowledge. Both USI and non-USI students can complete this micro-credential. USI students do not have to be formally enrolled in the micro-credential program to take the courses. The nine credit hours for the micro-credential must be earned at USI and may be applied toward a major or minor in Sociology.

Evidence of Market Need: The United States currently has a shortage of doctors and faces worsening conditions in the coming years due to demographic changes among doctors and the pool of students in the medical school pipeline. The acceptance rate to medical schools in the United States remains just above 40% indicating the supply of doctors is tightly controlled. For non-pre-med students, according to the Indiana Employment Outlook Projections, Healthcare Support is projected to have the second the greatest number of job openings in Indiana and the most in Southwestern Indiana. In more fine-grained occupational categories, Medical and Health Service Managers and Home Health and Personal Care Aides represent some of the fastest growing fields in Indiana.

Public History Microcredential (Undergraduate):

A public history microcredential will serve the community by providing individuals with a credential that introduces them to the latest research, methods, and tools used in various public history locations including museums, archives, historic sites, or libraries. This micro credential will be the first of its kind in Indiana and thus could elevate the University of Southern Indiana's visibility and produce more credit hour production. The micro credential requirements are 9 credit hours.

A significant portion of history majors pursue careers in public history. This micro credential proposes to give students that are on campus the opportunity to explore careers in different areas and give them work experience that will prepare them for post-graduate studies or careers at public history institutions. This credential will introduce different career pathways for students who are interested in history but do not seek to become teachers.

Evidence of Labor Market Need: This microcredential will place USI students in Indiana institutions to explore work in public history, once there, it will help the students to create a network to assist in their future career goals. It will enable students to complete a professional credential that will allow flexibility for the demands of the labor market

**2024-2025 Student Financial Aid Programs Final Report
University of Southern Indiana
November 6, 2025**

Executive Summary

The final student financial aid activity report for 2024-2025 contains summary and program-specific data of all student aid programs administered by Student Financial Assistance. Key indicators included in the 2024-2025 report are:

Service Profiles

Student Financial Assistance served 11,409 prospective and returning students, of which 8,656 filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Financial aid was packaged for 10,393 students, each receiving an offer detailing all federal, state, USI Foundation, and USI Institutional awards. Student Financial Assistance disbursed aid to 6,394 enrolled students, resulting in 17,750 awards totaling just over \$76 million. This is a significant increase in funding over the previous year, primarily due to increases in the federal Pell Grant program and several Indiana state aid programs, including the Frank O'Bannon Indiana Higher Education Award, 21st Century Scholars Award, and the Child of Disabled/Deceased Veteran programs.

Trends in Funding by Source (compared to 2023-2024)		Percent of Change
• Federal student aid: increased	\$1,893,582	5.4%
• State of Indiana aid: increased	1,207,247	13.6%
• University student aid: increased	880,694	4.5%
• USI Foundation student aid: increased	214,409	7.0%
• USI Varsity Club funding: no change	0	0.0%
• Corporate/private funding increased	325,055	6.9%

Trends in Funding by Type (compared to 2023-2024)		
• Gift aid: grants/scholarships increased	\$5,185,363	12.1%
• Self-help: loans decreased	753,120	-2.7%
• Self-help: on-campus employment increased	88,743	33.2%

Distribution of Aid by Source		Percent of Funding
• Federal aid	\$37,005,617	48.7%
• State of Indiana	10,113,205	13.3%
• USI aid	20,459,182	26.9%
• USI Foundation	3,296,505	4.3%
• USI Varsity Club	190,000	0.2%
• Private sources	5,002,483	6.6%

Distribution of Aid by Type		
• Gift aid: grants/scholarships	\$48,156,079	63.3%
• Self-help: loans	27,555,118	36.2%
• Self-help: on-campus employment	355,796	0.5%

2024-2025 Student Financial Aid Programs University of Southern Indiana November 6, 2025

Final Report

Introduction

This report summarizes program-specific information on all student financial aid programs which Student Financial Assistance administers. Data used in compiling this report was obtained from the University's administrative system on October 20, 2025. The Student Financial Assistance Office assists students in acquiring the types of financial aid included in this report.

Need Based Applications

Returning and prospective students submitted 8,656 Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is a decrease of 7.9% in FAFSA applications over the 2023-2024 award year. Of the number of students enrolled during 2024-2025, 5,601 (65%) submitted a FAFSA, and 5,489 received aid from one of the sources below.

Trends and Distribution of Aid by Source and Type

The Student Financial Assistance office administered 17,750 awards for a total of just over \$76 million in student financial aid to 6,394 (74%) of the students enrolled during 2024-2025.

The chart below provides the distribution of awards by funding source.

<i>Source</i>	<i>Awards</i>	<i>Subtotals</i>	<i>% of Total Dollars</i>	<i>Prior Year Distribution</i>
Federal Government	5,489	\$37,005,617	48.7	49.1
State of Indiana	2,078	10,113,205	13.3	12.5
USI	6,089	20,459,182	26.9	27.3
USI Foundation	2,153	3,296,505	4.3	4.3
USI Varsity Club	60	190,000	0.2	0.3
Private Sources	1,881	5,002,483	6.6	6.5
Totals	17,750	\$76,066,993	100	100

Student financial aid is categorized by aid type, grants/scholarships, loans, and employment. In 2024-2025, funding was distributed across the following types:

<i>Categories</i>	<i># of Awards</i>	<i>Award Totals</i>	<i>% of Total Dollars</i>	<i>Prior Year Distribution</i>
Grants / Scholarships	14,156	\$48,156,079	63.3	60.0
Loans	3,365	27,555,118	36.2	39.6
Employment	229	355,796	0.5	0.4
Totals	17,750	\$76,066,993	100	100

Changes in funding levels are summarized by source in the chart below:

Source	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Federal Government	-9.8	-5.7	+2.9	+5.4
State of Indiana	-9.7	-6.5	+19.3	+13.6
USI	-0.4	+5.7	+10.5	+4.5
USI Foundation	+2.9	+12.8	+8.6	+7.0
USI Varsity Club	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Private Sources	-11.0	+2.2	-1.9	+14.7
<i>Aggregate Change</i>	-7.3	-1.8	+6.6	+6.3

Federal Pell Grant Program

The Federal Pell Grant Program is the cornerstone of aid packages for students with exceptional need. The number of Pell Grant recipients in the 2024-2025 award year increased by 15.9% to 2,118. This follows a 2.6% increase in recipients (1,828) in the 2023-2024 award year. Total Pell Grant dollars received (\$12,096,375) in the 2024-2025 award year increased by 28.2%, following a 14.4% increase in the prior year (\$9,434,966).

The significant increases in Pell Grant recipients and funding for 2024-2025 are primarily due to the FAFSA Simplification Act legislation as part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was completely overhauled, with far fewer questions and a streamlined process that automatically transfers tax information directly from the IRS into the form for students and parents. In addition to the significant changes to the application, the eligibility calculation underwent major changes as well. The traditional aid eligibility calculation, Expected Family Contribution (EFC), was replaced with the Student Aid Index (SAI) which weighs more heavily on family size and adjusted gross income. In addition to the change in the aid eligibility calculation, a new process for calculating Pell Grant award amounts was also instituted with this legislation.

State Funds

Total funding from the state of Indiana (\$10,113,205) experienced a substantial 13.3% increase for the 2024-2025 award year, following a 19.3% increase in 2023-2024 (\$8,905,959). The increase in state grant funding is also primarily a result of the changes to the FAFSA and new eligibility calculation. These changes on top of the unprecedented increase in the Frank O'Bannon Indiana Higher Education Award amounts from the year before exacerbated the funding levels for 2024-2025. The Indiana Higher Education Award, similar to the Federal Pell Grant program, evaluates a student's eligibility based on their federal Student Aid Index (SAI).

The 21st Century Scholars Program is a need-based program whereby eligibility is determined primarily by income and the student's eligibility for the Free and/or Reduced Lunch Program while in middle school. These students must also meet income eligibility once they begin attending college. Therefore, if the family's financial situation has improved, they may no longer be eligible for the program.

Federal Direct Loan Program

Aggregate borrowing for Direct Student Loan recipients among the Class of 2025 earning their baccalaureate degrees averaged \$18,555. Among 2025 master's and doctoral degree recipients, aggregate borrowing averaged \$27,338, including graduate and undergraduate borrowing while enrolled at USI.

There are ongoing efforts nationally, in Indiana, and here at USI to reduce the 3-year Cohort Default Rates (CDR). As seen in the chart below, our efforts keep USI's 3-year CDR significantly lower than the national and state averages and lower than the average for 4-year public institutions.

An important fact regarding the CDRs for FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, and FY 2022 is that due to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Direct Loan borrowers experienced a payment pause (automatic forbearance) from the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 through September 2023. Borrowers were not required to make payments and, therefore, were not defaulting on their loans. Since the payment pause lasted over three years, most of the loans that would have been included in determining these CDRs were in forbearance due to the payment pause; thus, no one was considered to have defaulted.

Even though loan repayment resumed in October 2023, the Department of Education instituted a one-year "on-ramp" to repayment. This means that no borrowers faced critical consequences for delinquency or non-payment until October 2024. The FY 2022 CDR is calculated based on student borrowers who entered repayment between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022, who then defaulted on their loans between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2024. So, even though the on-ramp is now over, students were not entering into repayment between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022, thus holding the cohort default rate to zero percent.

A 5-year summary of Federal FY Cohort Default Rates (CDRs) appears below:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	USI	Indiana	<i>National</i>	4-Year Public
2018	3.9%	7.1%	7.3%	5.4%
2019*	1.3%	4.5%	2.3%	1.8%
2020*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2021*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2022*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

*CDRs for these years were affected by the 3+ year payment pause (automatic forbearance from March 2020 through September 2023) and the "on-ramp" to repayment (October 2023 to October 2024) on Federal Direct Student Loans. Due to these provisions, students were not considered defaulted during these timeframes.

Student Financial Assistance Mission

The Student Financial Assistance Office team members are committed to supporting the University's goals of enrolling and graduating a highly talented and distinct student body.

Our student-focused team works to help students and their families seek, obtain, and make the best use of all resources available to help finance the costs of attending the University of Southern Indiana. We aim to provide efficient and effective access to programs and services through personalized attention and state-of-the-art technology.

In partnership with internal, federal, state, and other organizations, team members coordinate the administration of all financial aid awards to ensure equity and consistency in delivering funds to students. We are dedicated to ensuring the proper stewardship of all University, government, and private funds our students utilize to finance their education. We aspire to minimize the procedural barriers that sometimes frustrate financial aid applicants and their families and diligently work to ensure our students learn to handle their financial affairs responsibly. The Student Financial Assistance team advocates for students on issues relevant to student success.

**Summary of Construction Change Orders
Authorized by the President**

HEALTH PROFESSIONS RENOVATION PHASE III – LL AND FIRST FLOOR

Empire Contractors – General Contractor

CO 015		\$ 53,670
	Relocated new controls for air handler from lower level. Installed new 600-amp distribution panels, motor controllers, sensors, and required wiring.	

HEALTH PROFESSIONS RENOVATION/ADDITION PHASE IV

Empire Contractors – General Contractor

CO 007		\$ 183,179
	Installed new cooling system to be compatible with updated CT scanner. Relocated CT control units and UPS to adjoining room and replaced related cabling.	
CO 009		\$ 4,176
	Installed additional AV boxes, electrical boxes, and water stop.	

STEM DISCOVERY LAB, RICE LIBRARY

Garmong Construction – General Contractor

CO 001		\$ 4,866
	Replaced existing electrical floor boxes.	

UNIVERSITY CREATIVE AND PRINT NEW BUILDING

Danco Construction Inc – General Contractor

CO 003		\$ 12,760
	Removed existing concrete apron and replaced to match new apron elevation. Added blocking to exterior walls. Hung transformer from ceiling instead of floor.	

CAREER SUCCESS CENTER

ARC Construction – General Contractor

CO 001		\$ 22,039
	Changed flooring material. Removed door/frame from plan. Removed and replaced corner guards. Added additional storefront window. Relocated and added network wiring, ports, and lighting. Installed monitor brackets and locksets. Removed vinyl applique from plan. Fabricated additional letters due to name change.	

RECREATION FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER STORAGE AND BIKE SHOP ADDITION

ARC Construction – General Contractor

CO 001		\$	1,089
	Applied additional flooring sealant in locker rooms and reused existing door hardware.		
CO 002		\$	8,471
	Added access control hardware to door openings. Completed ductwork changes for air handler installation.		

**Summary
Construction Projects**

November 6, 2025

Projects Recently Completed

Career Success Center Renovation/Relocation

Project Cost \$ 420,000

Funding Source: Special Projects

Lower Level New Paint and Flooring, Rice Library

Project Cost \$ 245,000

Funding Source: FY24 State Repair and Rehabilitation

Athletics Academic Center, Rice Library

Project Cost \$ 150,000

Funding Source: Special Projects

Projects Under Construction

Health Professions Renovation/Addition Phase IV

Project Cost \$ 50,000,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2023

Wright Administration Renovation/Addition

Project Cost \$ 32,000,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2023

Recreation Fitness & Wellness Center Storage and Bike Shop Addition

Project Cost \$ 2,500,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

University Creative and Print New Building

Project Cost \$ 2,500,000

Funding Source: Legislative Appropriation - 2019

Center for Applied Business Technologies, Romain College of Business

Project Cost \$ 1,300,000

Funding Source: USI Foundation

STEM Discovery Lab, Rice Library

Project Cost \$ 730,000

Funding Source: USI Foundation

Projects In Design

University Home Improvements and Updating

Project Cost \$ 1,250,000

Funding Source: USI Foundation