



# TOP TIER

UNLV'S STRATEGIC PLAN  
PROGRESS UPDATE – FY21

10.01.2021

## DATA OVERVIEW SUMMARY – FY21

The onset of the pandemic in March 2020 did not show much effect on FY20 data regularly reviewed in alignment with the Top Tier strategic plan; however, as the pandemic continued through FY21, it has not only had a significant impact on our operations, but is reflected in several metrics for Top Tier. Given the effects of the pandemic, UNLV continues to make progress despite some setbacks.

In the area of Student Achievement, the majority of student outcomes demonstrated improvement over the previous year, although some fell short of their annual goals. While retention has been increasing over the past four years, it decreased from 79.8% to 77.4%; however, 4-year and 6-year graduation rates both increased to their highest levels – 25.3% and 47.1% respectively. The gap for our student to advisor ratio has been reduced significantly from 493:1 to 384:1 and we are on-track to meet our 2023 goal of 350:1. Students participating in undergraduate research activities increased significantly by 41%.

Research expenditures had a modest increase of 6% from \$99.4M to \$105.8M. Faculty have been productive with publications increasing by 15%, and proposals increased 48% to \$408M. The number of GAs decreased 3.4% to 990 as many students deferred due to the pandemic. Nearly 75% of GAs are state funded, while only 10% are grant-funded. Non-faculty researchers and postdocs are demonstrating an alarming trend with postdocs decreasing dramatically, with initial data revealing many postdocs have moved to other positions at other institutions.

While patents issued went down from 14 to 8, the number of applications submitted was only 11 as there has been more focus on being selective with applications. Disclosures submitted decreased from 33 to 10. The Small Business Development Center at UNLV indicated that new business starts were down from 68 to 33, but jobs created and clients served continued to have large increases. Jobs created increased 278% to 4,429 and clients served reached a high of 1,856, or 139% increase over the previous year.

Doctoral degrees did well in both categories. While we had an all-time record high in AY19-20 of 210 research doctorates conferred, which was hard on our pipeline, during AY20-21 we still had 180 students earn their research doctorate, which met our annual goal. Professional doctorates increased significantly, 48%, from 204 to 302. This increase was due to the inaugural class graduating 50 students from the medical school as well as an increase of 46 JDs over the previous year. Graduate student publications, presentations, posters, and artistic and creative activities were all down significantly, as expected with the pandemic conditions and restrictions.

While the total number of dental visits was down, patient satisfaction with dental services remained high at 95%. Patient visits at the medical school were also down, but they are still ahead of their annual goal. Mental health took a hard hit in FY20 (no services at all at the onset of the pandemic), and they have rebounded - thanks in part to telehealth, and exceeded their goal. In addition, the Student Wellness reported an increase of 11% in mental health services as students received 12,452 visits. The number of health-related degrees conferred at all levels increased again this past year. Diversity training within the academic health units decreased slightly.

Student involvement in the community was down as demonstrated through decreased service learning hours, and co-curricular student engagement activities attendance was half that of the previous year. Cultural, athletic, and event attendance was down drastically, as expected due to the ongoing public health protocols.

During FY20, turnover was at the lowest rate since FY15. However, these data are a year in arrears so it is hard to know how the pandemic may affect these data. Safety trainings by police services and in risk safety were both down.

December 2021 will be the next announcement by CCIHE regarding those schools designated as R1. UNLV data, which they collect at various times from 2018 – 2020, all demonstrated growth. From 2018 to 2021, research expenditures have increased by \$39.6M, or 59.8%. Research doctorates increased by 55, or 35.5%. Non-faculty researchers and postdocs increased slightly by 12, or 15%. Our growth in R1 metrics is a positive indicator; however, it is relative to other institutions. As a university only recently designed R1, we know it will be a challenge to remain R1, and we must continue to focus our efforts on not only maintaining this designation, but advancing all areas of our Top Tier plan.

All metrics are available on the Top Tier website.

- [Key Metrics](#)
- [Student Achievement](#)
- [Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity](#)
- [Academic Health Center](#)
- [Community Partnerships](#)
- [Infrastructure and Shared Governance](#)

[Top Tier 2.0](#) is under development and will be launched in spring 2022.